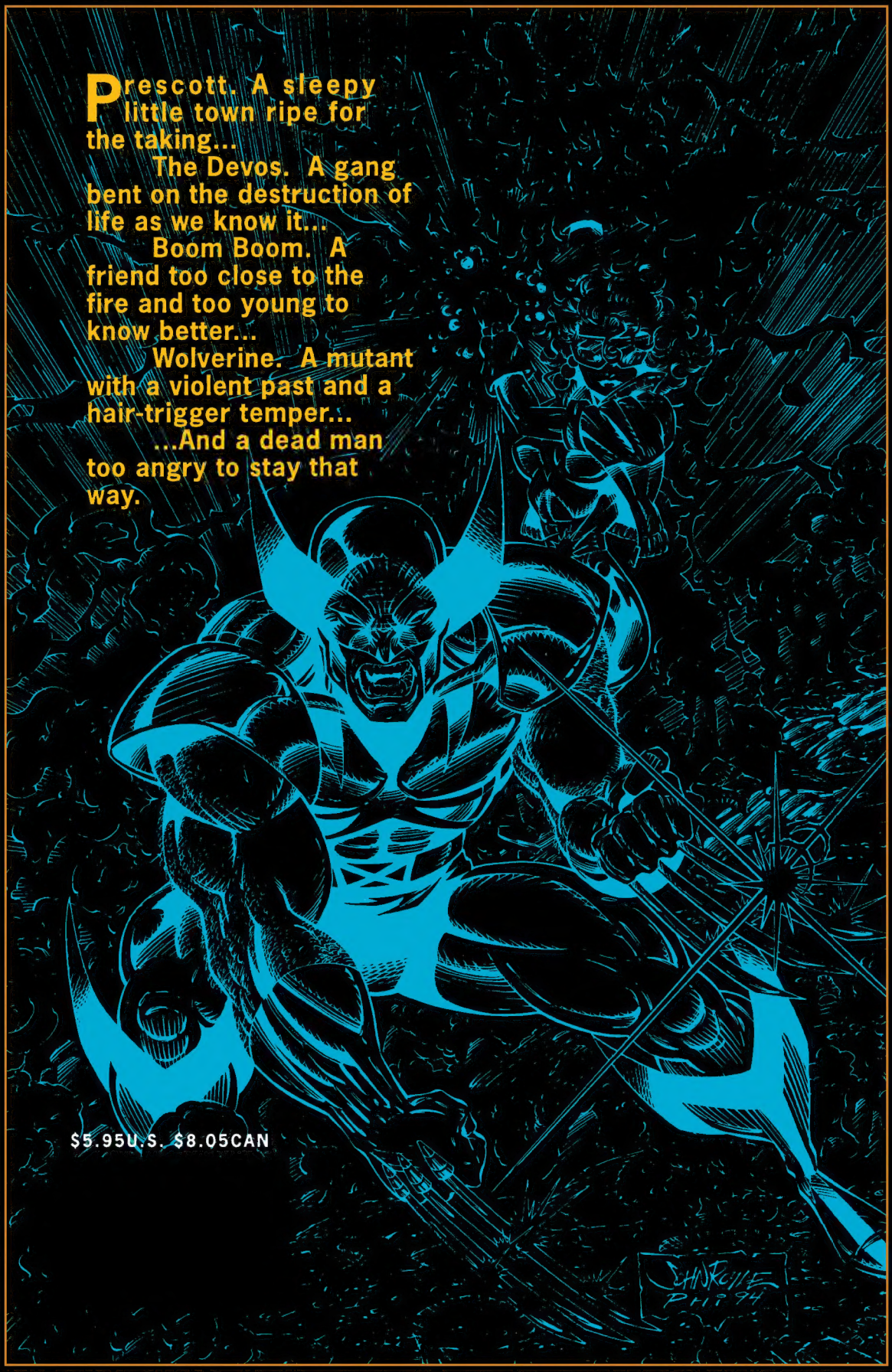
MARVEL COMICS

WOLVERINE

evilution

ann nocenti • mark texeira • john royle • philip moy

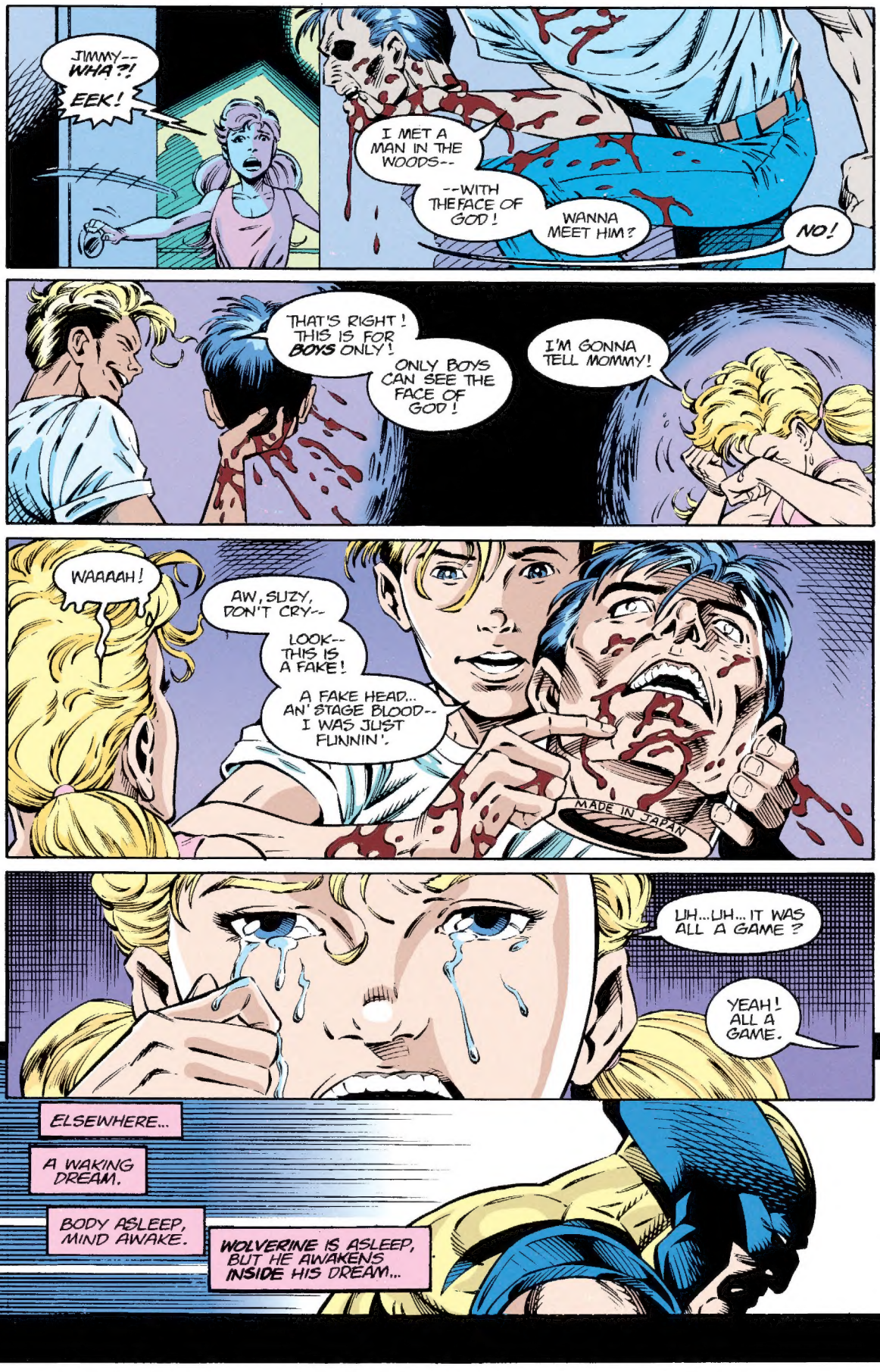

Prescott. A sleepy little town ripe for the taking...
The Devos. A gang bent on the destruction of life as we know it...
Boom Boom. A friend too close to the fire and too young to know better...
Wolverine. A mutant with a violent past and a hair-trigger temper...
...And a dead man too angry to stay that way.
$5.95U.S. $8.05CAN
JIM ROSE PHI 94

Plastic chokes the roots.
Metal rusts the grass.
Styrofoam strangles dirt.
Glass suffocates breath.
Man's techno-tourniquets twist off
his own blood.
The artificial kills the real.
The counterfeit kills the genuine.
Plastic chokes the roots.
Metal rusts the grass.

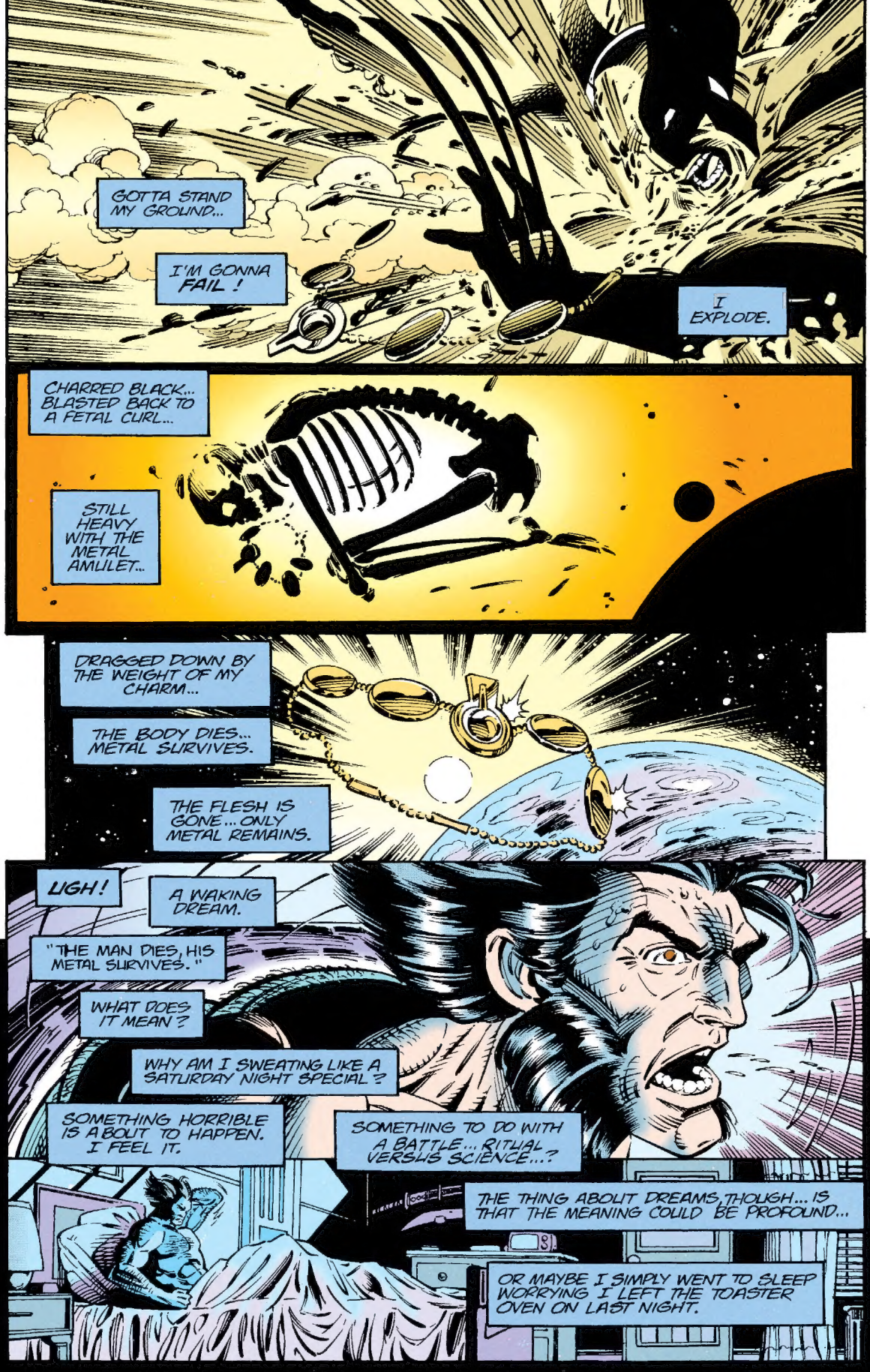
We're going the wrong way.

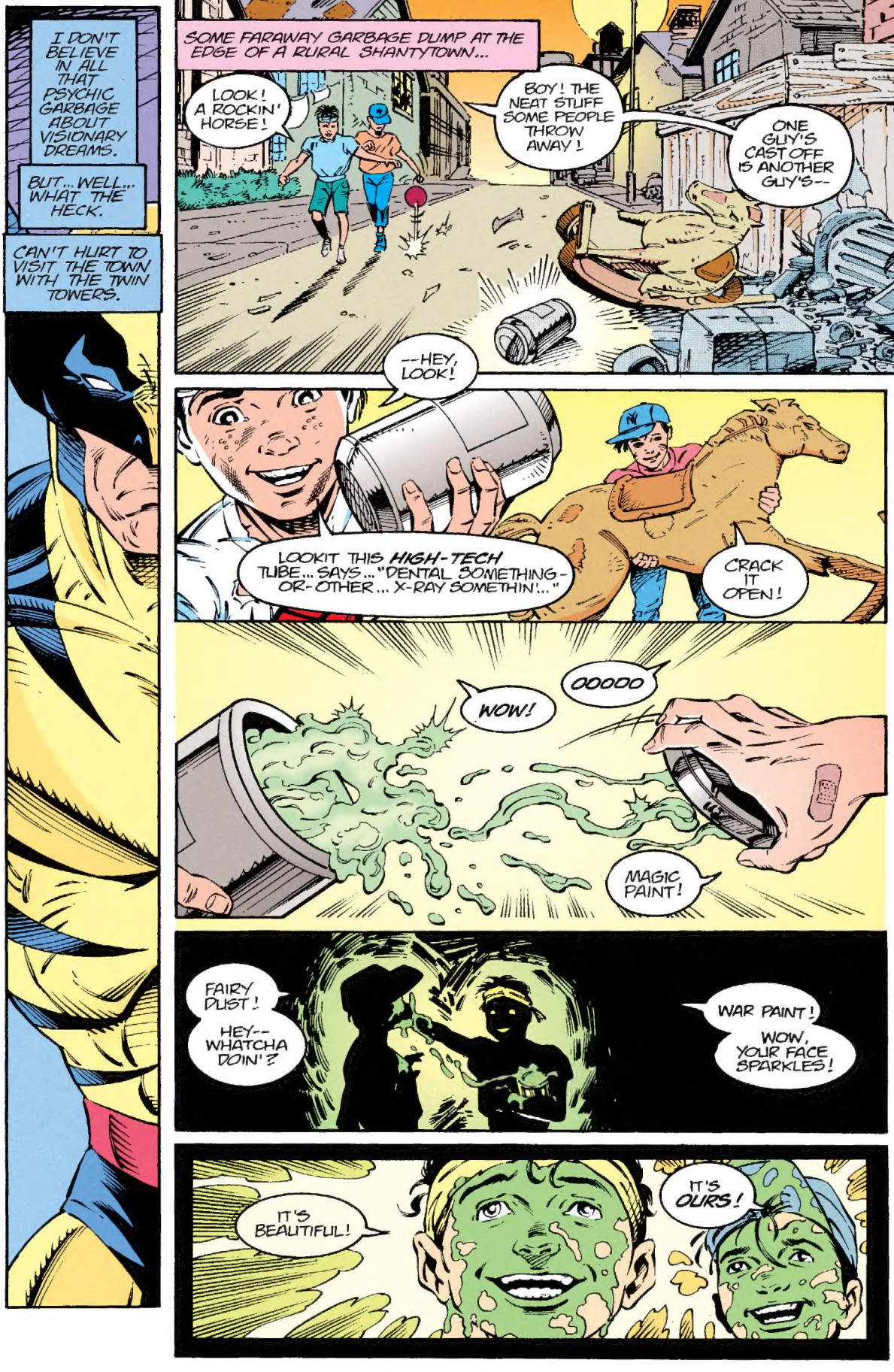
*This story takes place before X-MEN #25.

STAN LEE PRESENTS
EVILUTION

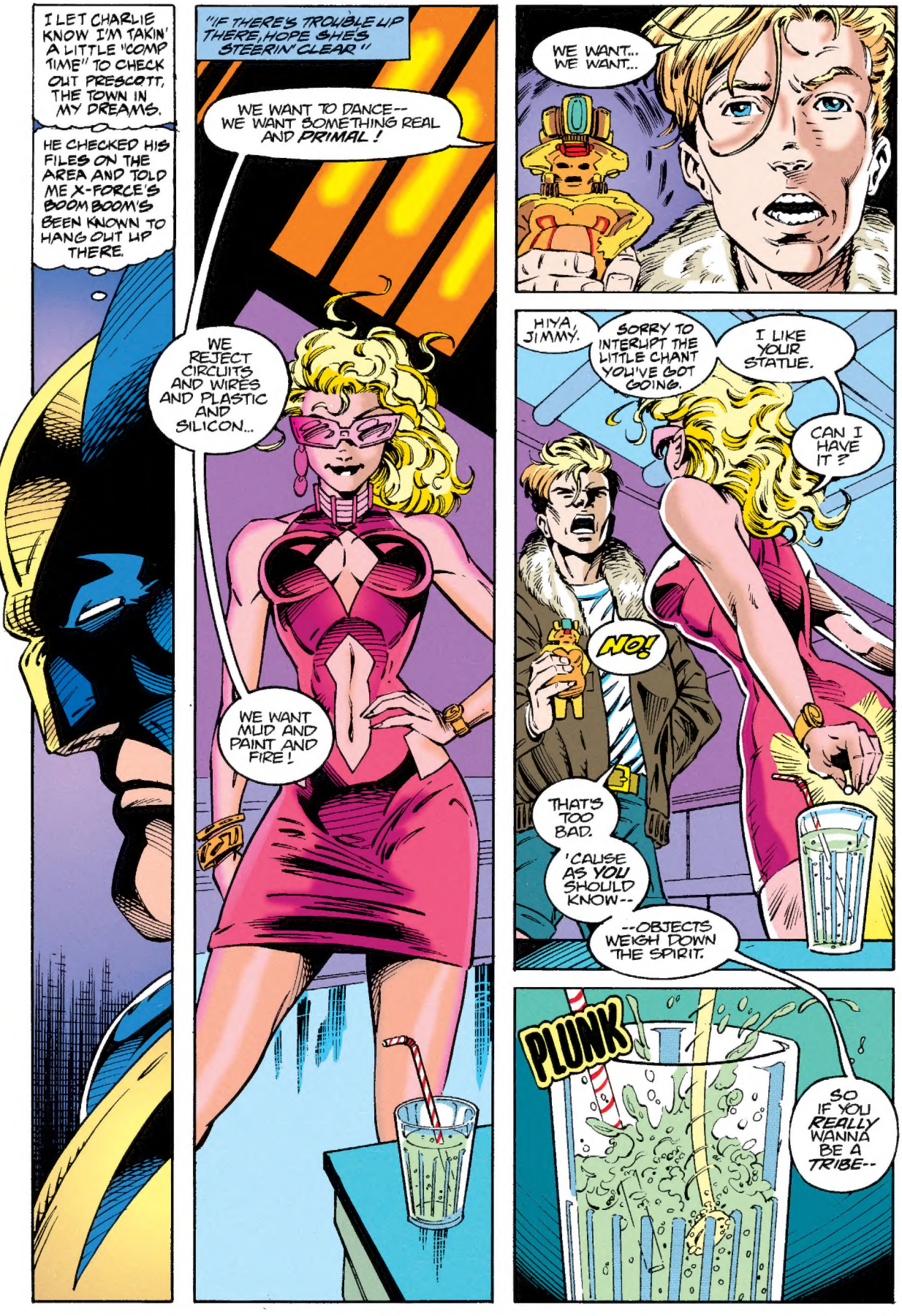

JIMMY--
WHA?!
EEK!
I MET A MAN IN THE WOODS--
--WITH THE FACE OF GOD!
WANNA MEET HIM?
NO!
THAT'S RIGHT! THIS IS FOR BOYS ONLY!
ONLY BOYS CAN SEE THE FACE OF GOD!
I'M GONNA TELL MOMMY!
WAAAAH!
AW, SUZY, DON'T CRY--
LOOK-- THIS IS A FAKE!
A FAKE HEAD... AN' STAGE BLOOD-- I WAS JUST FUNNIN'.
MADE IN JAPAN
UH...UH... IT WAS ALL A GAME?
YEAH! ALL A GAME.
ELSEWHERE...
A WAKING DREAM.
BODY ASLEEP, MIND AWAKE.
WOLVERINE IS ASLEEP, BUT HE AWAKENS INSIDE HIS DREAM...

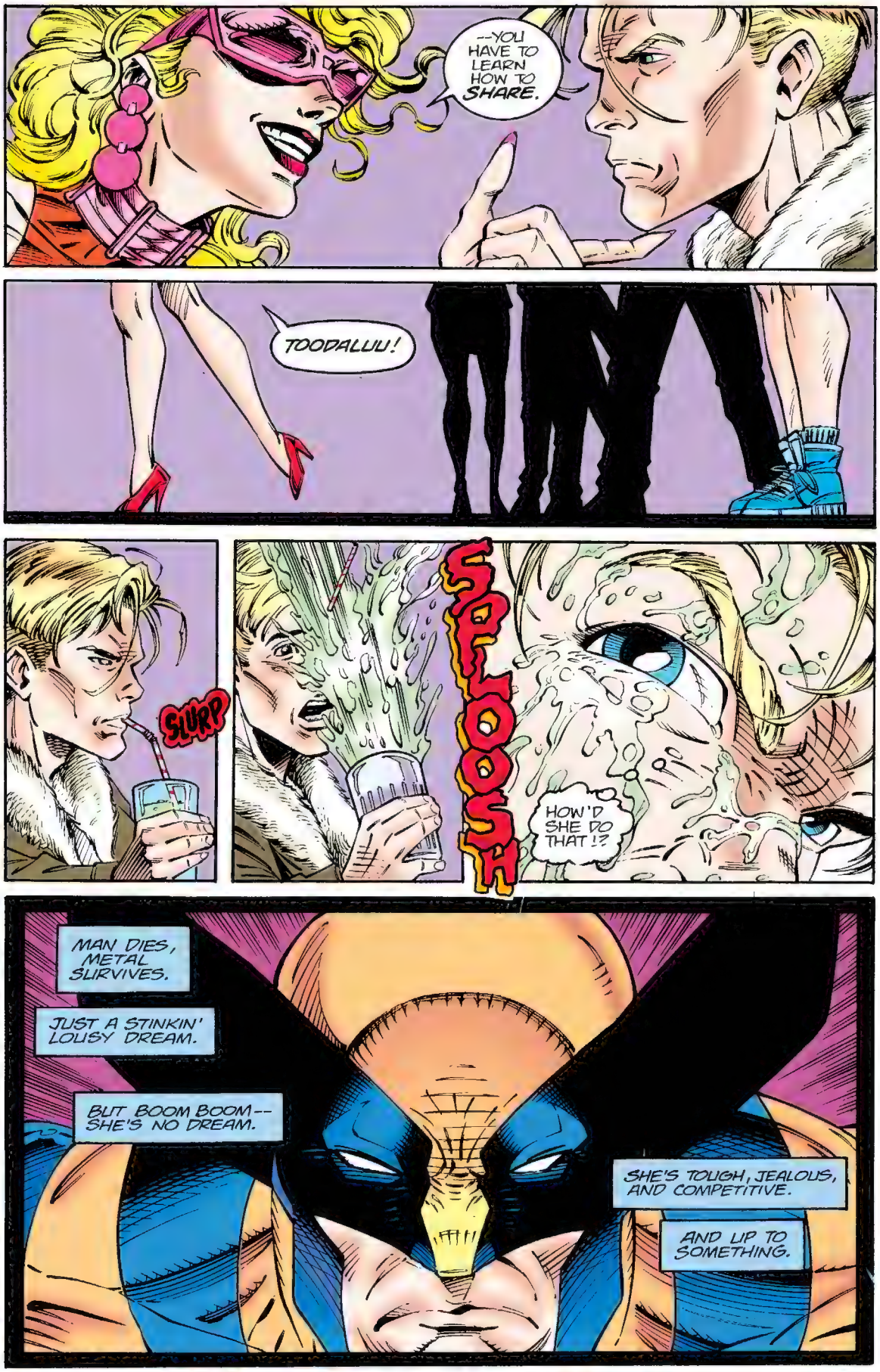
TWIN... MOUNTAINS?
NO--IT LOOKS LIKE--TWIN TOWERS... A NUCLEAR PLANT.
A TOWN THAT LIVES UNDER THE TWIN SHADOWS OF TWIN TOWERS...
I KNOW THAT TOWN! IT'S NOT FAR FROM SALEM CENTER.
AND WHY AM I SO BIG... SO TRANSPARENT... LIKE OLD INDIAN SPIRIT GODS!
I FEEL A WEIGHT... UNDER MY NECK...
A TALISMAN! WHY AM I WEARING A--
--WAIT! THAT ROCKET--THAT'S A WARHEAD! I'VE GOT TO STOP IT!

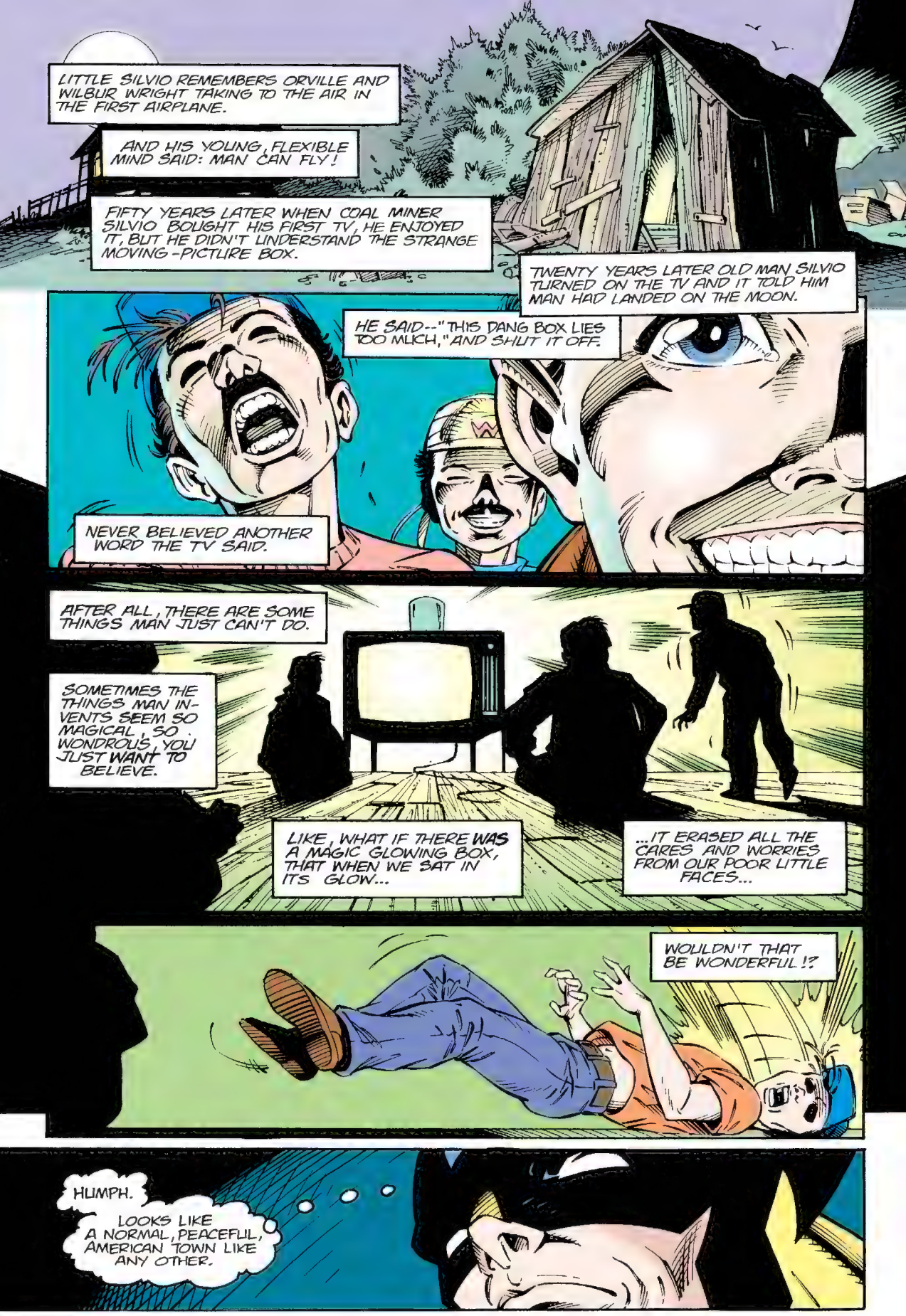

GOTTA STAND MY GROUND...
I'M GONNA FAIL !
I EXPLODE.
CHARRED BLACK... BLASTED BACK TO A FETAL CURL...
STILL HEAVY WITH THE METAL AMULET...
DRAGGED DOWN BY THE WEIGHT OF MY CHARM...
THE BODY DIES... METAL SURVIVES.
THE FLESH IS GONE... ONLY METAL REMAINS.
UGH!
A WAKING DREAM.
"THE MAN DIES, HIS METAL SURVIVES."
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
WHY AM I SWEATING LIKE A SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL?
SOMETHING HORRIBLE IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN. I FEEL IT.
SOMETHING TO DO WITH A BATTLE... RITUAL VERSUS SCIENCE...?
THE THING ABOUT DREAMS, THOUGH... IS THAT THE MEANING COULD BE PROFOUND...
OR MAYBE I SIMPLY WENT TO SLEEP WORRYING I LEFT THE TOASTER OVEN ON LAST NIGHT.

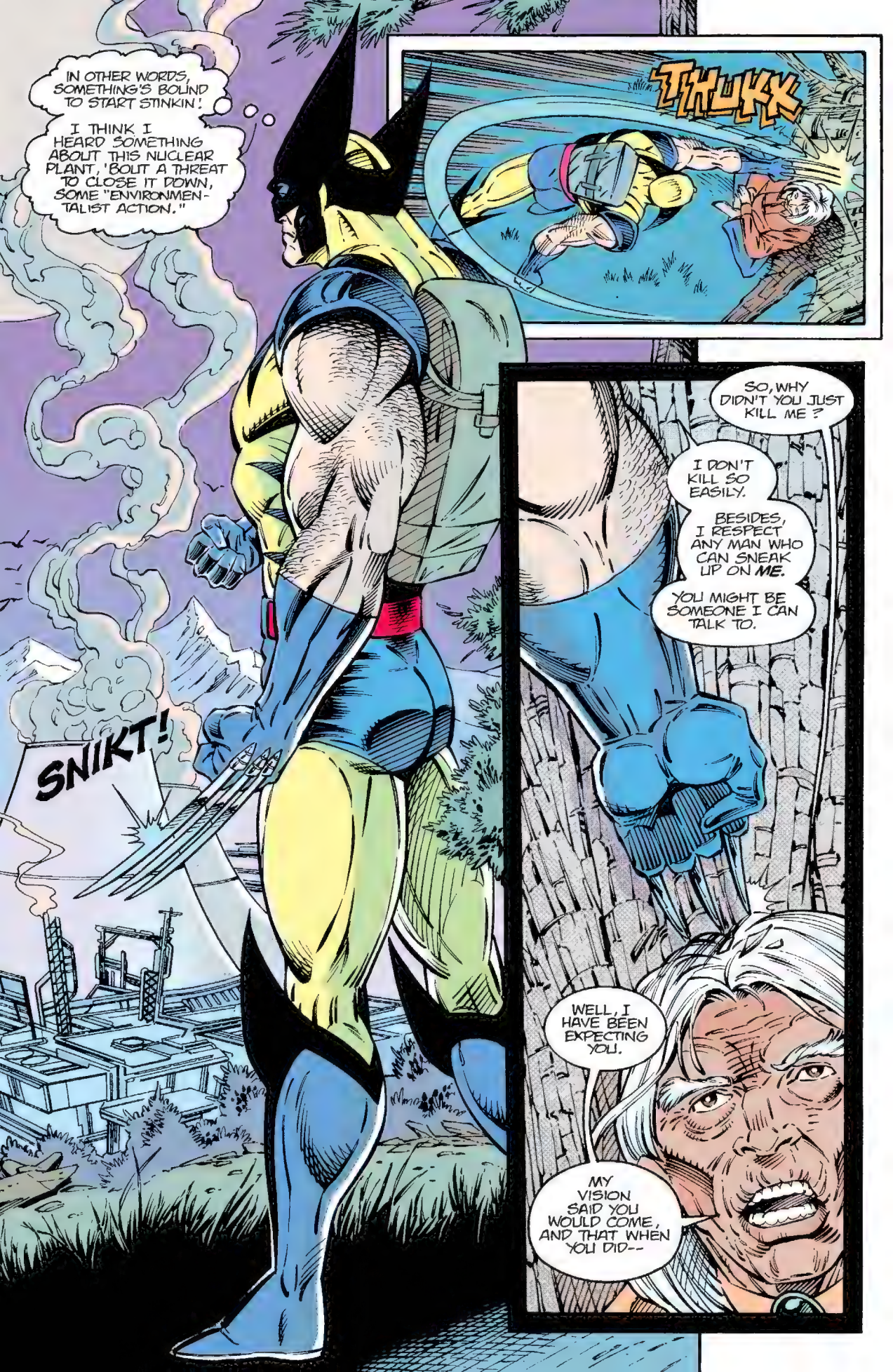

I DON'T BELIEVE IN ALL THAT PSYCHIC GARBAGE ABOUT VISIONARY DREAMS.
BUT... WELL... WHAT THE HECK.
CAN'T HURT TO VISIT THE TOWN WITH THE TWIN TOWERS.
SOME FARAWAY GARBAGE DUMP AT THE EDGE OF A RURAL SHANTYTOWN...
LOOK! A ROCKIN' HORSE!
BOY! THE NEAT STUFF SOME PEOPLE THROW AWAY!
ONE GUY'S CAST OFF IS ANOTHER GUY'S--
--HEY, LOOK!
LOOKIT THIS HIGH-TECH TUBE... SAYS... "DENTAL SOMETHING-OR-OTHER... X-RAY SOMETHIN'..."
CRACK IT OPEN!
OOOOO
WOW!
MAGIC PAINT!
FAIRY DUST!
HEY-- WHATCHA DOIN'?
WAR PAINT!
WOW, YOUR FACE SPARKLES!
IT'S BEAUTIFUL!
IT'S OURS!

"MAN DIES, METAL SURVIVES."
WOLVERINE'S NOT A MAN TO TAKE HIS CUES FROM DREAMS.
BUT THIS ONE MADE SENSE-- HE FEELS IT IN HIS ADAMANTIUM-BONDED BONES.
HE MAY FOLLOW HIS INSTINCTS LIKE A NATURAL MAN, BUT HE CAN'T DENY HIS HIGH-TECH SKELETON.
SOMETIMES HE TASTES THE METAL IN HIS MOUTH.
IN THE SHADOW OF THE TWIN TOWERS...
PRESCOTT, A SEVEN-MALL, THREE-CHURCH, TEN-SALOON KINDA TOWN...
...COMPLETE WITH BORED, RESTLESS, FRUSTRATED TEENAGERS.
SO, HOW LONG ARE YOU IN TOWN FOR THIS TIME, BOOM BOOM?
I WISH SHE'D SHUT UP SO I CAN HEAR WHAT THOSE BOYS ARE SAYING.
BUT JIMMY, TECHNOLOGY GIVES US GOOD STUFF, TOO...
YEAH, LIKE, UH... BEER... AND UH... MOTORCYCLES...
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
ULTIMATELY, WE'LL DIE BY MACHINE.
THAT'S WHY WE'RE THE DEVOS, OUR GANG IS FOR DEVOLUTION!
WE GOTTA DRAG THE HUMAN RACE BACK TO BEFORE CARS AND COMPUTERS AND IRON LUNGS AND MISSILES...
...WE'RE HURTIN' FROM THE LACK OF RITUAL, AND DANCE, AND TRIBAL CONSCIOUSNESS.

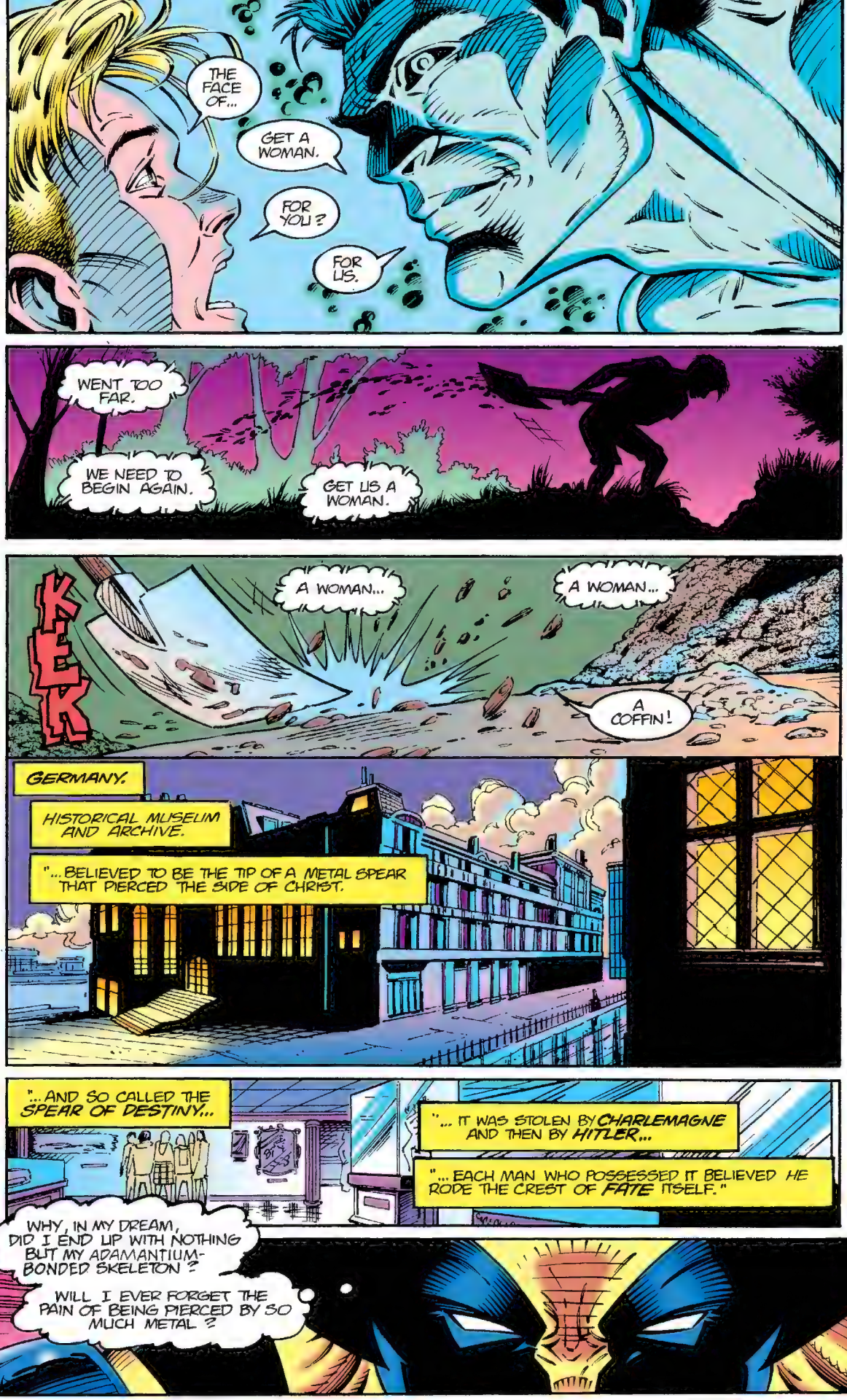

I LET CHARLIE KNOW I'M TAKIN' A LITTLE "COMP TIME" TO CHECK OUT PRESCOTT, THE TOWN IN MY DREAMS.
HE CHECKED HIS FILES ON THE AREA AND TOLD ME X-FORCE'S BOOM BOOM'S BEEN KNOWN TO HANG OUT UP THERE.
"IF THERE'S TROUBLE UP THERE, HOPE SHE'S STEERIN' CLEAR"
WE WANT TO DANCE-- WE WANT SOMETHING REAL AND PRIMAL!
WE REJECT CIRCUITS AND WIRES AND PLASTIC AND SILICON...
WE WANT MUD AND PAINT AND FIRE!
WE WANT... WE WANT...
HIYA, JIMMY.
SORRY TO INTERUPT THE LITTLE CHANT YOU'VE GOT GOING.
I LIKE YOUR STATUE.
CAN I HAVE IT?
NO!
THAT'S TOO BAD.
'CAUSE AS YOU SHOULD KNOW--
--OBJECTS WEIGH DOWN THE SPIRIT.
PLUNK
SO IF YOU REALLY WANNA BE A TRIBE--

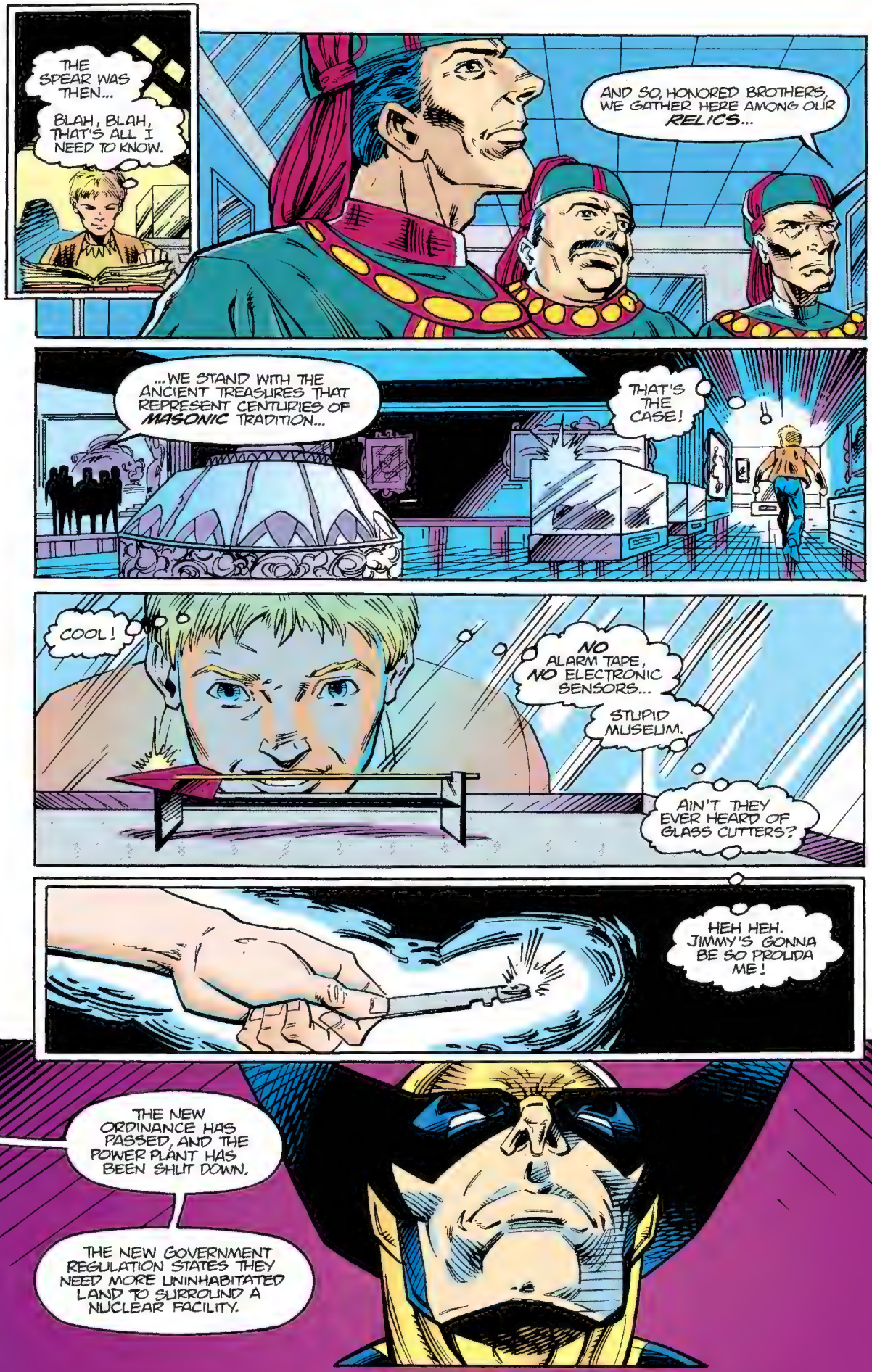

--YOU HAVE TO LEARN HOW TO SHARE.
TOODALUU!
SLURP
SPLOOSH
HOW'D SHE DO THAT!?
MAN DIES, METAL SURVIVES.
JUST A STINKIN' LOUSY DREAM.
BUT BOOM BOOM-- SHE'S NO DREAM.
SHE'S TOUGH, JEALOUS, AND COMPETITIVE.
AND UP TO SOMETHING.

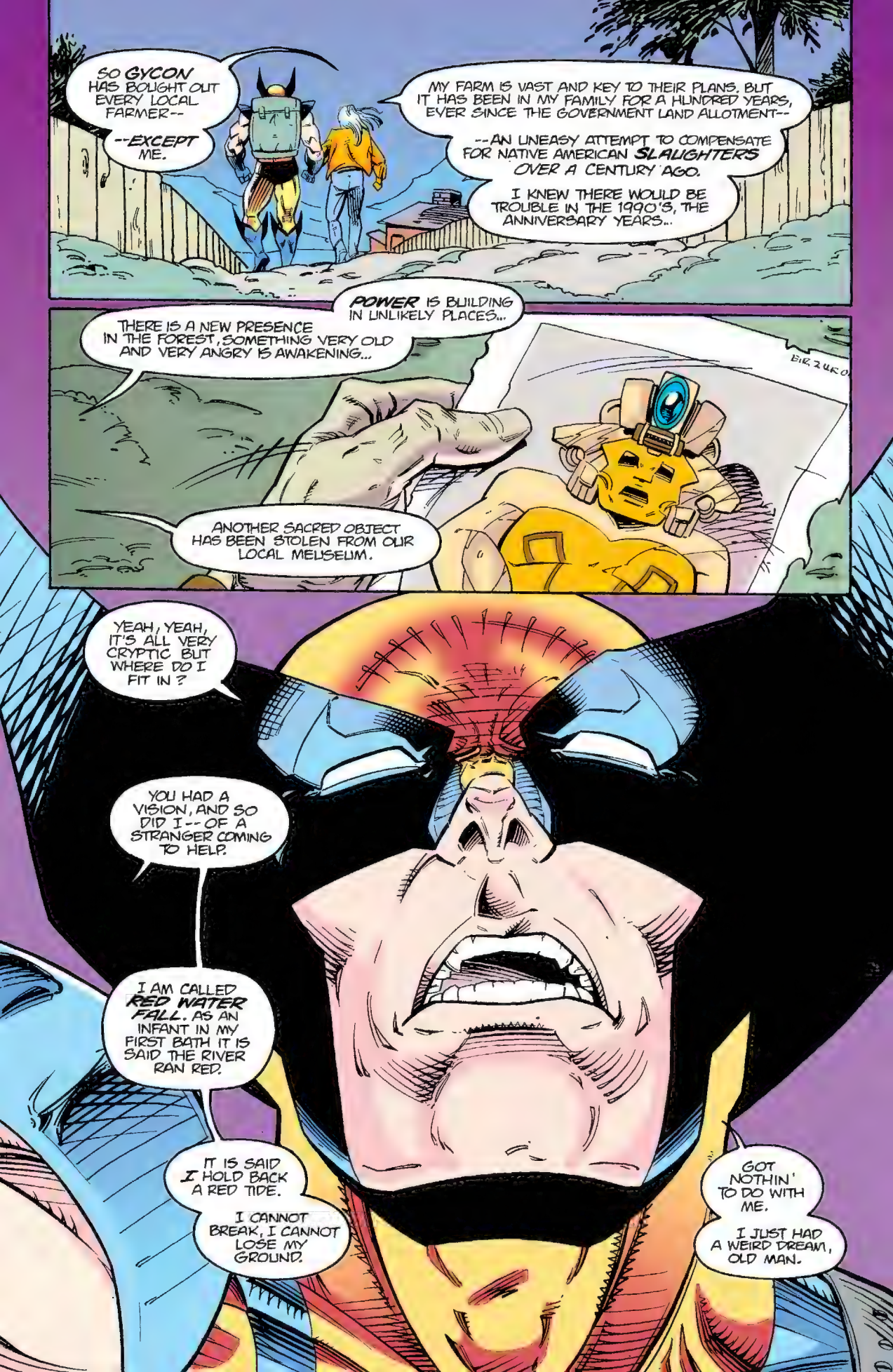

LITTLE SILVIO REMEMBERS ORVILLE AND WILBUR WRIGHT TAKING TO THE AIR IN THE FIRST AIRPLANE.
AND HIS YOUNG, FLEXIBLE MIND SAID: MAN CAN FLY!
FIFTY YEARS LATER WHEN COAL MINER SILVIO BOUGHT HIS FIRST TV, HE ENJOYED IT, BUT HE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE STRANGE MOVING-PICTURE BOX.
TWENTY YEARS LATER OLD MAN SILVIO TURNED ON THE TV AND IT TOLD HIM MAN HAD LANDED ON THE MOON.
HE SAID--"THIS DANG BOX LIES TOO MUCH," AND SHUT IT OFF.
NEVER BELIEVED ANOTHER WORD THE TV SAID.
AFTER ALL, THERE ARE SOME THINGS MAN JUST CAN'T DO.
SOMETIMES THE THINGS MAN INVENTS SEEM SO MAGICAL, SO WONDROUS, YOU JUST WANT TO BELIEVE.
LIKE, WHAT IF THERE WAS A MAGIC GLOWING BOX, THAT WHEN WE SAT IN ITS GLOW...
...IT ERASED ALL THE CARES AND WORRIES FROM OUR POOR LITTLE FACES...
WOULDN'T THAT BE WONDERFUL!?
HUMPH.
LOOKS LIKE A NORMAL, PEACEFUL, AMERICAN TOWN LIKE ANY OTHER.

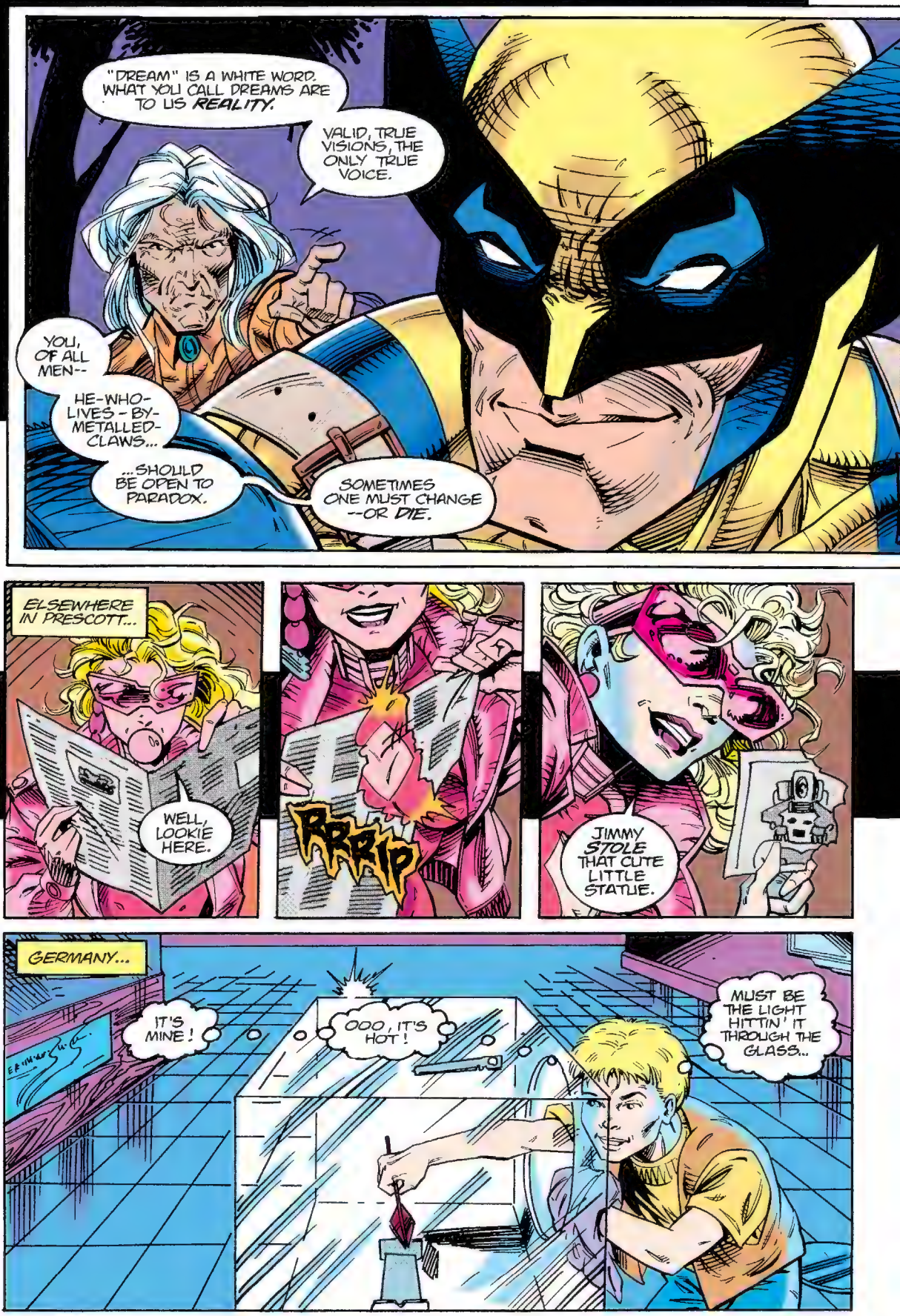

IN OTHER WORDS, SOMETHING'S BOUND TO START STINKIN'!
I THINK I HEARD SOMETHING ABOUT THIS NUCLEAR PLANT, 'BOUT A THREAT TO CLOSE IT DOWN, SOME "ENVIRONMENTALIST ACTION."
THUKK
SNIKT!
SO, WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST KILL ME?
I DON'T KILL SO EASILY.
BESIDES, I RESPECT ANY MAN WHO CAN SNEAK UP ON ME.
YOU MIGHT BE SOMEONE I CAN TALK TO.
WELL, I HAVE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.
MY VISION SAID YOU WOULD COME, AND THAT WHEN YOU DID--

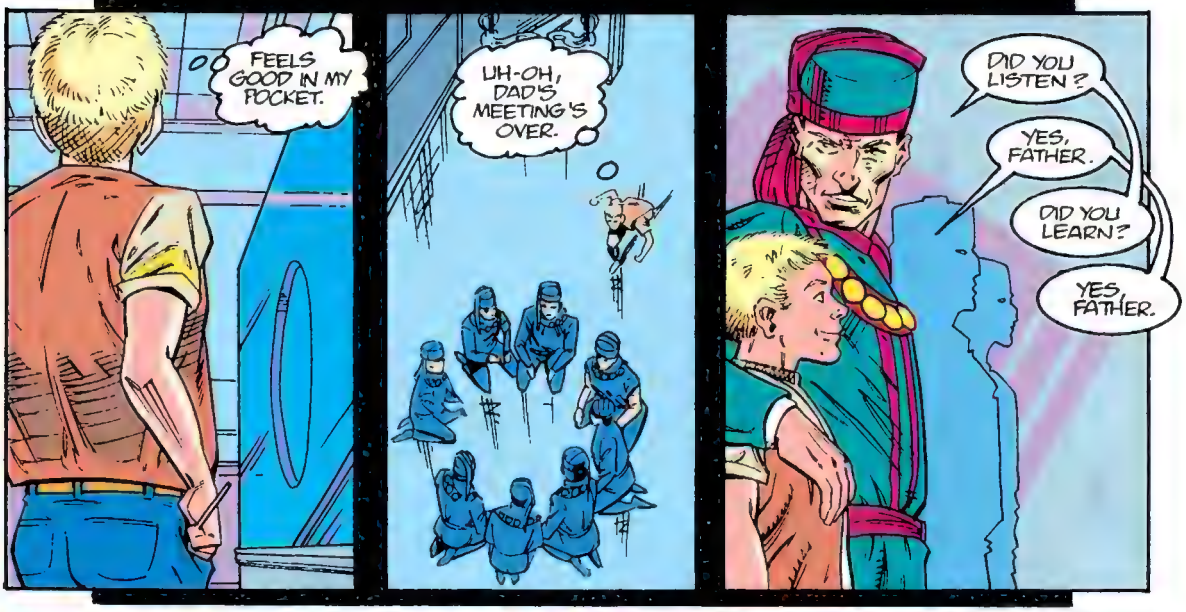
"-- IT WILL HAVE BEGUN."
I'M DIFFERENT.
OF COURSE YOU ARE
ARE YOU IN MY HEAD ?
NO.
I NEED SOMETHING.
OF COURSE YOU DO.
NOW DIG.
WHERE ?
SHIK
RIGHT--
--HERE!
SHIK
SHIK
SHIK
WOW!
THE FACE OF GOD.


THE FACE OF...
GET A WOMAN.
FOR YOU?
FOR US.
WENT TOO FAR.
WE NEED TO BEGIN AGAIN.
GET US A WOMAN.
KEK
A WOMAN...
A WOMAN...
A COFFIN!
GERMANY.
HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND ARCHIVE.
"...BELIEVED TO BE THE TIP OF A METAL SPEAR THAT PIERCED THE SIDE OF CHRIST.
"...AND SO CALLED THE SPEAR OF DESTINY...
"... IT WAS STOLEN BY CHARLEMAGNE AND THEN BY HITLER...
"... EACH MAN WHO POSSESSED IT BELIEVED HE RODE THE CREST OF FATE ITSELF."
WHY, IN MY DREAM, DID I END UP WITH NOTHING BUT MY ADAMANTIUM-BONDED SKELETON?
WILL I EVER FORGET THE PAIN OF BEING PIERCED BY SO MUCH METAL?


THE SPEAR WAS THEN...
BLAH, BLAH, THAT'S ALL I NEED TO KNOW.
AND SO, HONORED BROTHERS, WE GATHER HERE AMONG OUR RELICS...
...WE STAND WITH THE ANCIENT TREASURES THAT REPRESENT CENTURIES OF MASONIC TRADITION...
THAT'S THE CASE!
COOL!
NO ALARM TAPE, NO ELECTRONIC SENSORS...
STUPID MUSELIM.
AIN'T THEY EVER HEARD OF GLASS CUTTERS?
HEH HEH. JIMMY'S GONNA BE SO PROUDA ME!
THE NEW ORDINANCE HAS PASSED, AND THE POWER PLANT HAS BEEN SHUT DOWN.
THE NEW GOVERNMENT REGULATION STATES THEY NEED MORE UNINHABITATED LAND TO SURROUND A NUCLEAR FACILITY.

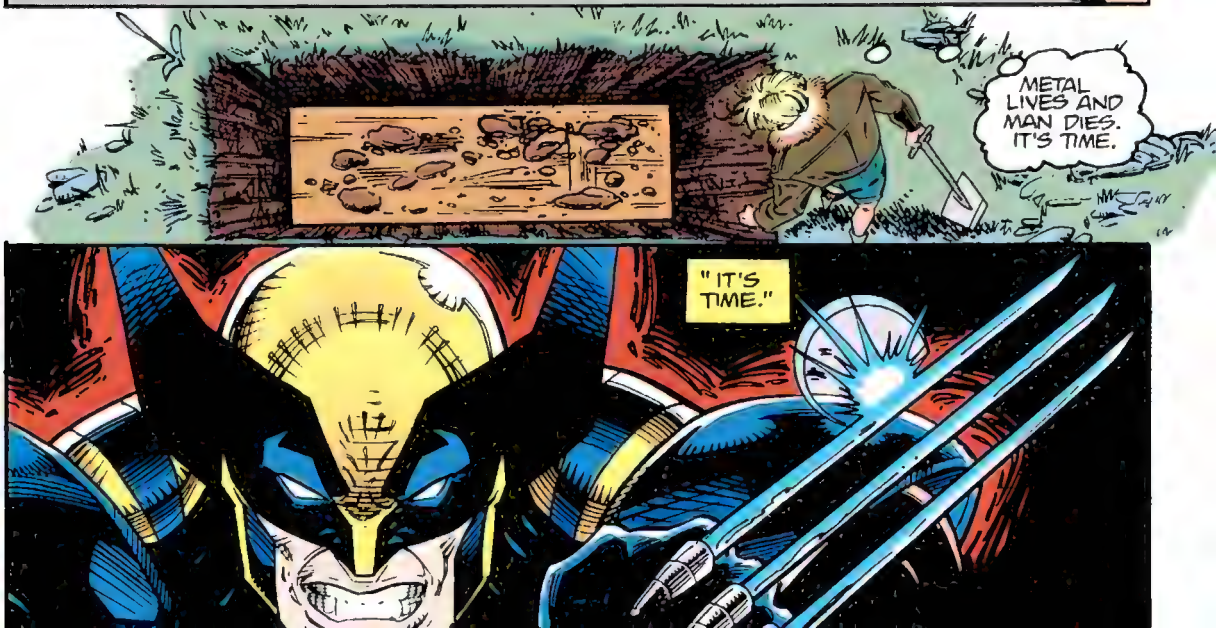

SO GYCON HAS BOUGHT OUT EVERY LOCAL FARMER--
--EXCEPT ME.
MY FARM IS VAST AND KEY TO THEIR PLANS, BUT IT HAS BEEN IN MY FAMILY FOR A HUNDRED YEARS, EVER SINCE THE GOVERNMENT LAND ALLOTMENT--
--AN UNEASY ATTEMPT TO COMPENSATE FOR NATIVE AMERICAN SLAUGHTERS OVER A CENTURY AGO.
I KNEW THERE WOULD BE TROUBLE IN THE 1990'S, THE ANNIVERSARY YEARS...
POWER IS BUILDING IN UNLIKELY PLACES...
THERE IS A NEW PRESENCE IN THE FOREST, SOMETHING VERY OLD AND VERY ANGRY IS AWAKENING...
ANOTHER SACRED OBJECT HAS BEEN STOLEN FROM OUR LOCAL MELUSEUM.
YEAH, YEAH, IT'S ALL VERY CRYPTIC BUT WHERE DO I FIT IN?
YOU HAD A VISION, AND SO DID I -- OF A STRANGER COMING TO HELP.
I AM CALLED RED WATER FALL. AS AN INFANT IN MY FIRST BATH IT IS SAID THE RIVER RAN RED.
IT IS SAID I HOLD BACK A RED TIDE.
I CANNOT BREAK, I CANNOT LOSE MY GROUND.
GOT NOTHIN' TO DO WITH ME.
I JUST HAD A WEIRD DREAM, OLD MAN.


"DREAM" IS A WHITE WORD. WHAT YOU CALL DREAMS ARE TO US REALITY.
VALID, TRUE VISIONS, THE ONLY TRUE VOICE.
YOU, OF ALL MEN--
HE-WHO-LIVES-BY-METALLED-CLAWS...
...SHOULD BE OPEN TO PARADOX.
SOMETIMES ONE MUST CHANGE --OR DIE.
ELSEWHERE IN PRESCOTT...
WELL, LOOKIE HERE.
RRRIP
JIMMY STOLE THAT CUTE LITTLE STATUE.
GERMANY...
IT'S MINE!
OOO, IT'S HOT!
MUST BE THE LIGHT HITTIN' IT THROUGH THE GLASS...

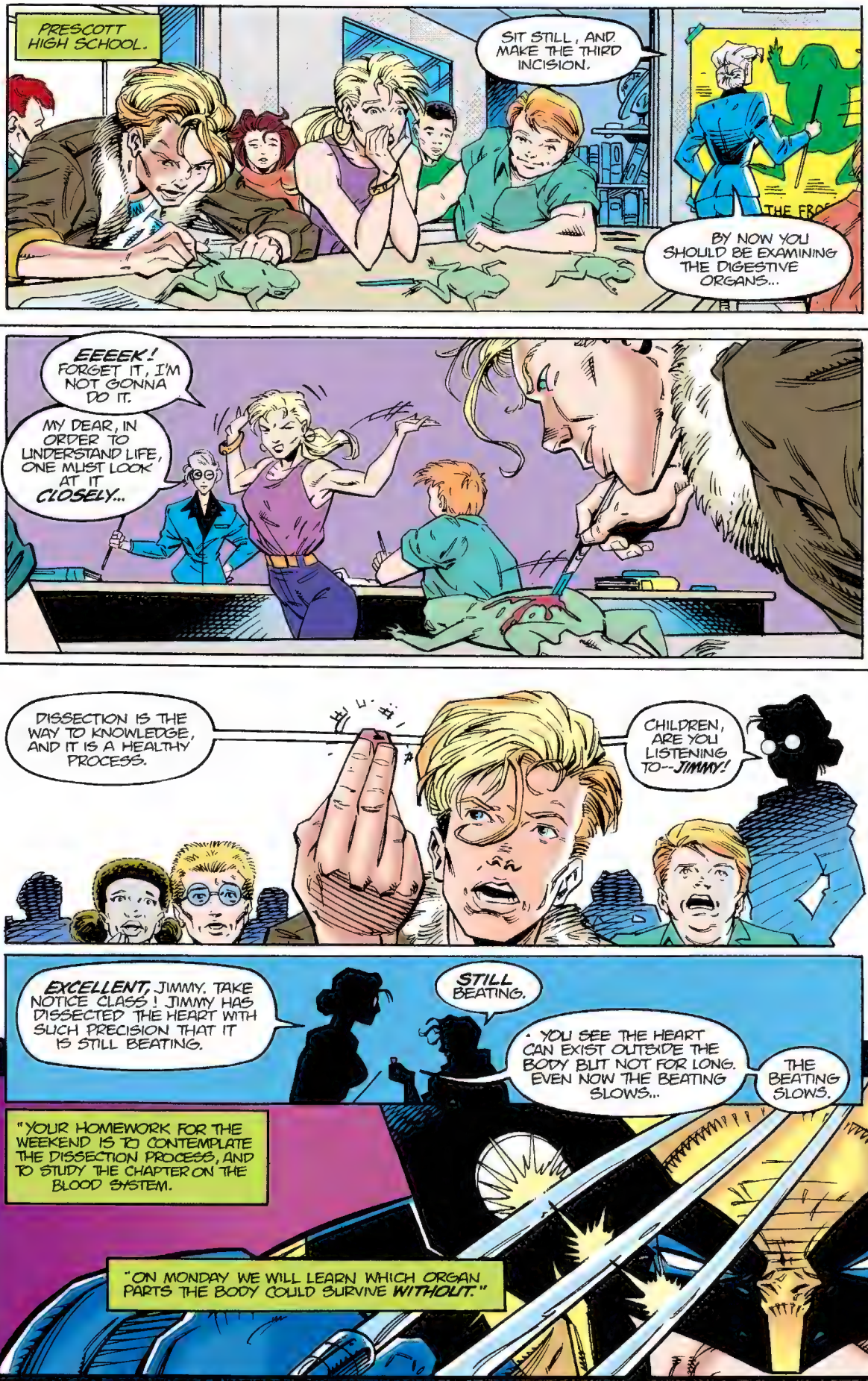


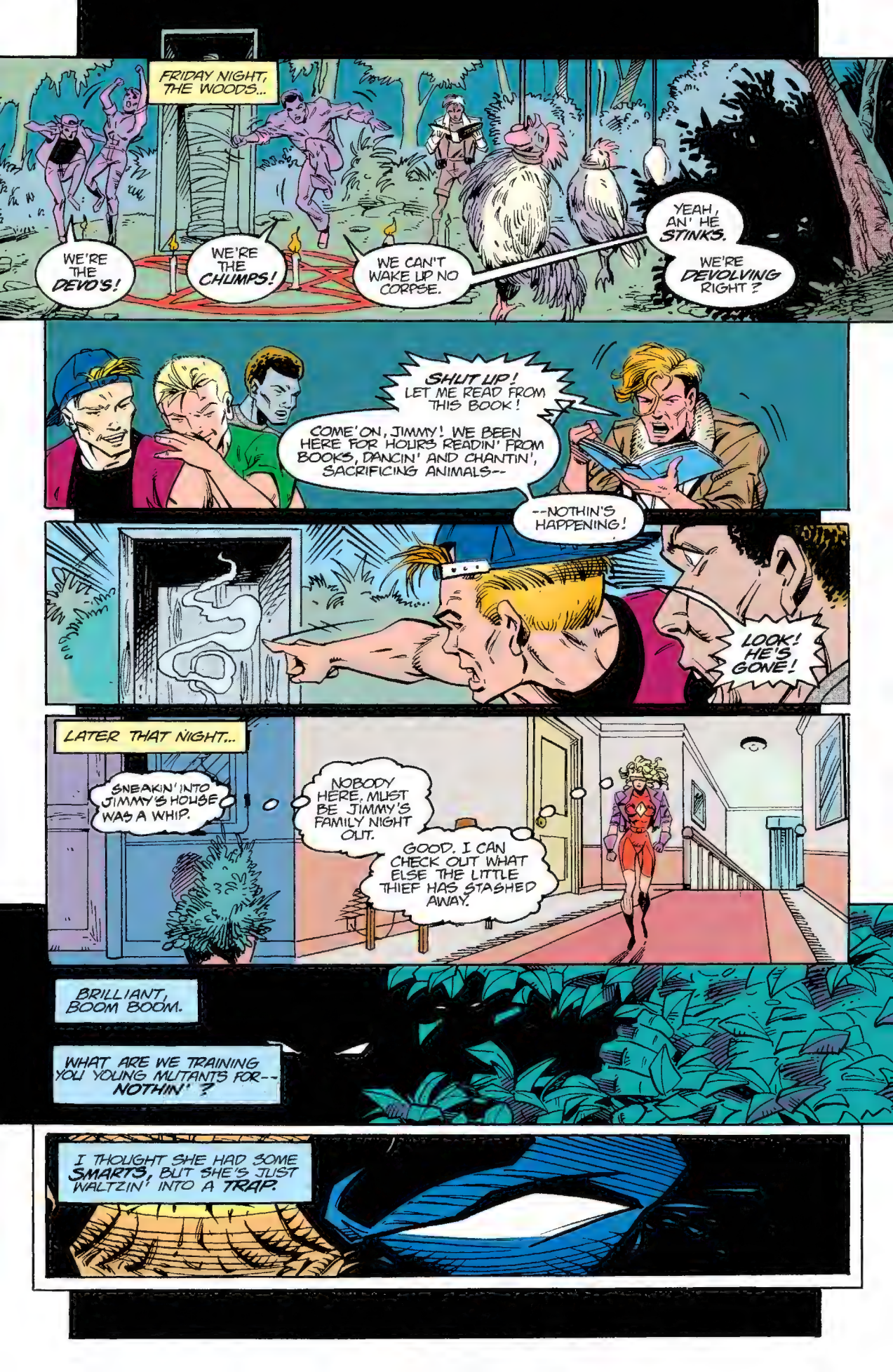
PRESCOTT...
THEY LIE SO EASILY.
THEY KNEW IT WOULD KILL.
THE MAN IN THE WOODS IS RIGHT. IT'S TIME TO ACT.
THE DAILY BUGLE
TOXIC DEATH
NUMBER OF DEATHS NOW THIRTEEN AND RISING...

The children who found the substance called it the "green glow" and used it in some sort of mystic ceremony. But the radioactive waste, illegally dumped from a plant that supplies both Dental x-ray machines and space program

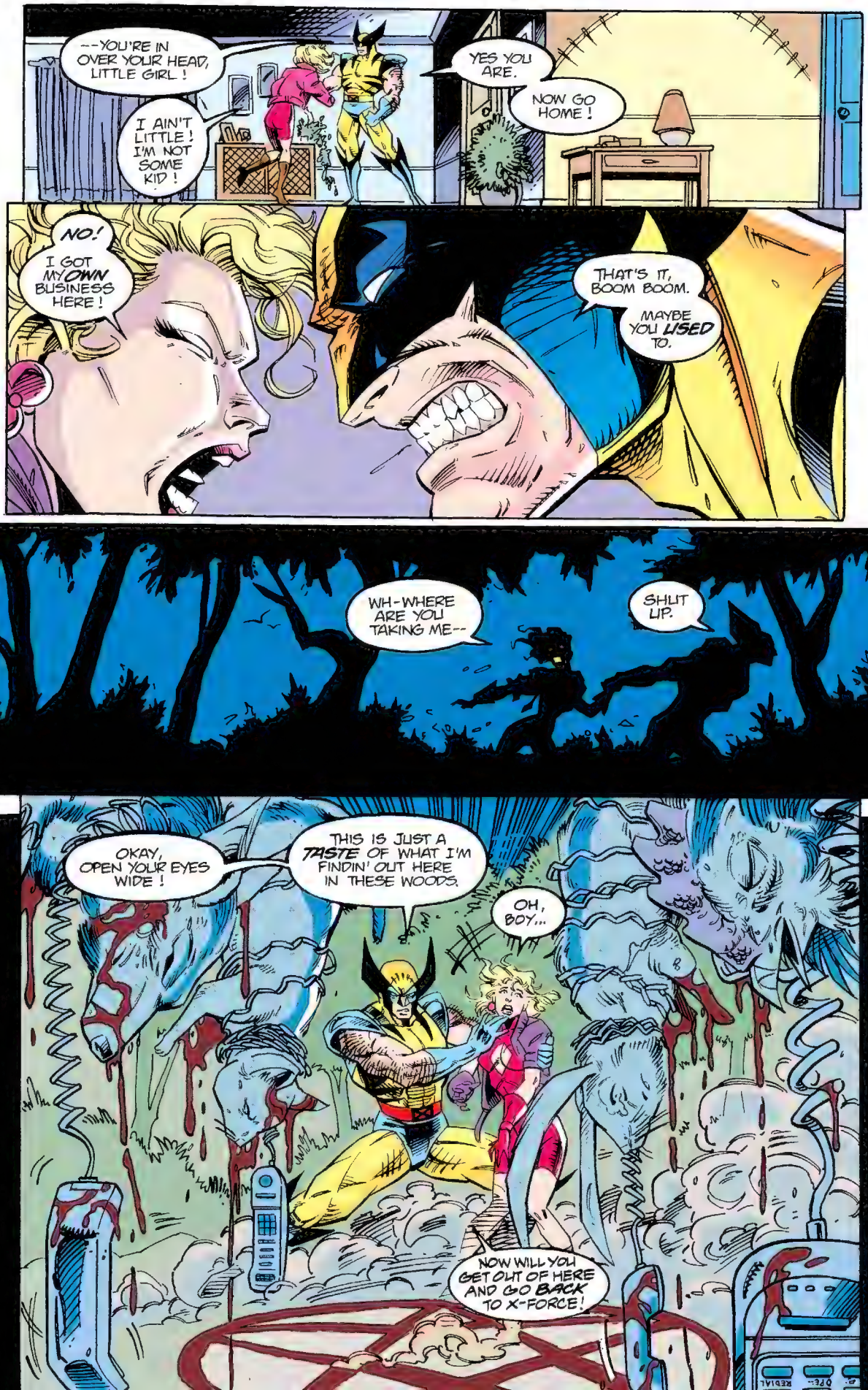


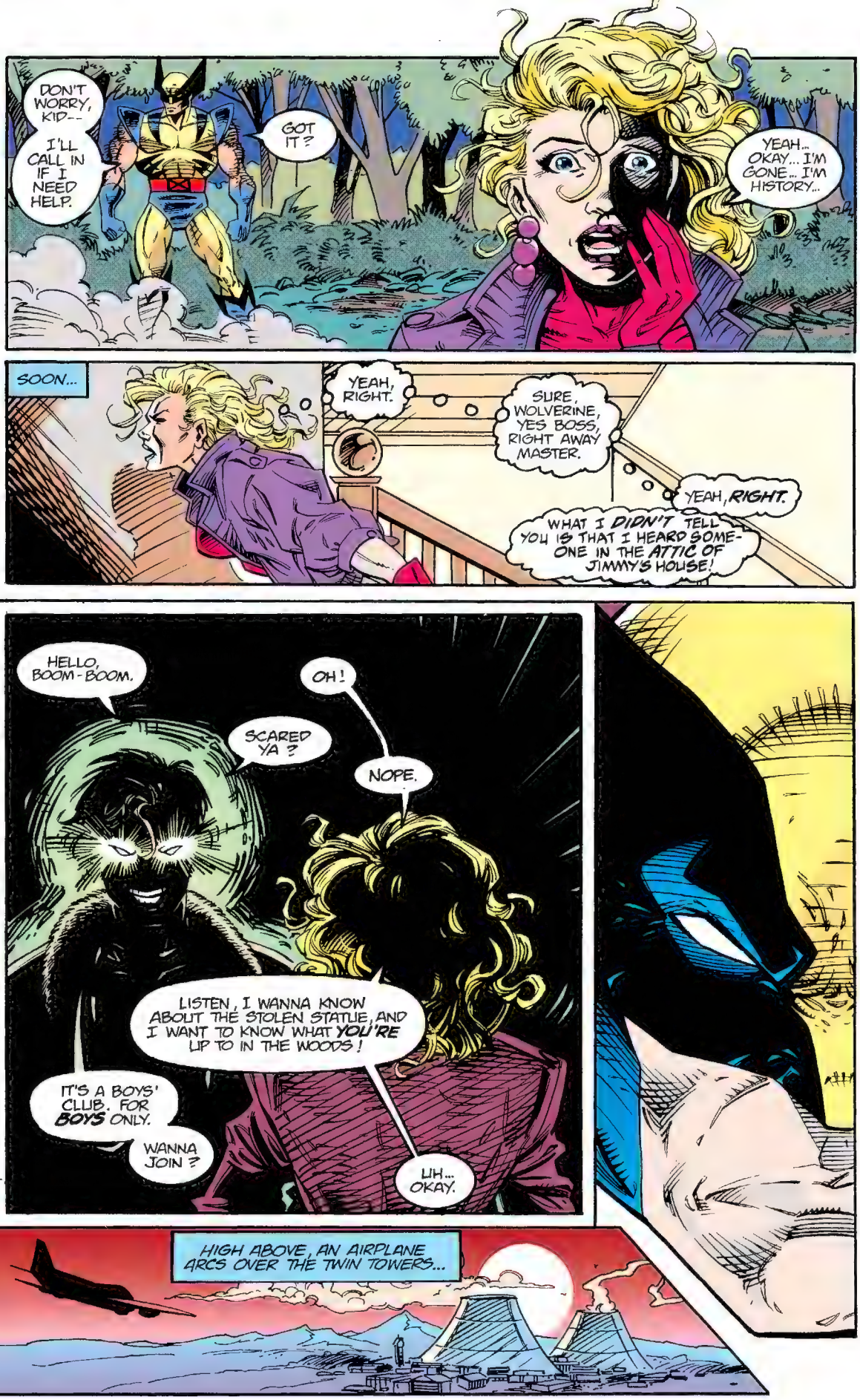
AS THE PRESIDENT OF GYCON--
-- I'M TELLING YOU THE LOSS OF GYCON'S NUCLEAR PLANT AFFECTS ALL OF YOU.
IF THE CORPORATION LOSES CAPITAL, THE TOWN LOSES CAPITAL.
GYCON'S PROFITS WOULD TRICKLE BACK INTO OUR TOWN DURING THIS RECESSION...
...THE ONLY THING IN OUR WAY IS ONE STUBBORN OLD MAN !
WE MUST THINK OF THE FUTURE OF OUR GREAT TOWN, THE MEMORIES OF OUR FOREFATHERS, AND OF OUR SONS AND THEIR OFFSPRING.
WE MUST HOLD ON TO OUR RESOURCES AND OUR WEALTH--
--AND TO DO THAT WE NEED THIS NUCLEAR PLANT OPERATIONAL. WE NEED GYCON'S PLANT TO OPEN AGAIN!
THE OLD MAN DOES NOT UNDERSTAND..
JUST AS HIS PEOPLE DID NOT UNDERSTAND A HUNDRED YEARS AGO.
IT IS NOW AS IT WAS THEN--WHEN TWO CULTURES CLASH, ONE MUST RELINQUISH.
THERE IS A NATURAL PROGRESSION, AN INEVITABILITY TO CHANGE.
PEOPLE MUST ADAPT TO OUR WAYS--
--OR PERISH.
IS RED WATER FALL RIGHT? MUST I CHANGE?
HAVEN'T I CHANGED ENOUGH ALREADY?
FIRST SOMETHING MAKES ME A MUTANT--GIVES ME A HEALIN' FACTOR AND A PAIR OF CLAWS I NEVER ASKED FOR.
THEN--THEY RAM ME FULL OF ADMANTIUM--TURNIN' ME INTO SOMEBODY'S LAB RAT.
I THINK I'M ABOUT AS "CHANGED" AS I'M GOING TO GET!


PRESCOTT HIGH SCHOOL.
SIT STILL, AND MAKE THE THIRD INCISION.
BY NOW YOU SHOULD BE EXAMINING THE DIGESTIVE ORGANS...
EEEEK! FORGET IT, I'M NOT GONNA DO IT.
MY DEAR, IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND LIFE, ONE MUST LOOK AT IT CLOSELY...
DISSECTION IS THE WAY TO KNOWLEDGE, AND IT IS A HEALTHY PROCESS.
CHILDREN, ARE YOU LISTENING TO--JIMMY!
EXCELLENT, JIMMY. TAKE NOTICE CLASS! JIMMY HAS DISSECTED THE HEART WITH SUCH PRECISION THAT IT IS STILL BEATING.
STILL BEATING.
YOU SEE THE HEART CAN EXIST OUTSIDE THE BODY BUT NOT FOR LONG. EVEN NOW THE BEATING SLOWS...
THE BEATING SLOWS.
"YOUR HOMEWORK FOR THE WEEKEND IS TO CONTEMPLATE THE DISSECTION PROCESS, AND TO STUDY THE CHAPTER ON THE BLOOD SYSTEM.
"ON MONDAY WE WILL LEARN WHICH ORGAN PARTS THE BODY COULD SURVIVE WITHOUT."


FRIDAY NIGHT, THE WOODS...
WE'RE THE DEVO'S!
WE'RE THE CHUMPS!
WE CAN'T WAKE UP NO CORPSE.
YEAH, AN' HE STINKS.
WE'RE DEVOLVING RIGHT?
SHUT UP! LET ME READ FROM THIS BOOK!
COME'ON, JIMMY! WE BEEN HERE FOR HOURS READIN' FROM BOOKS, DANCIN' AND CHANTIN', SACRIFICING ANIMALS--
--NOTHIN'S HAPPENING!
LOOK! HE'S GONE!
LATER THAT NIGHT...
SNEAKIN' INTO JIMMY'S HOUSE WAS A WHIP.
NOBODY HERE. MUST BE JIMMY'S FAMILY NIGHT OUT.
GOOD. I CAN CHECK OUT WHAT ELSE THE LITTLE THIEF HAS STASHED AWAY.
BRILLIANT, BOOM BOOM.
WHAT ARE WE TRAINING YOU YOUNG MUTANTS FOR-- NOTHIN'?
I THOUGHT SHE HAD SOME SMARTS, BUT SHE'S JUST WALTZIN' INTO A TRAP.

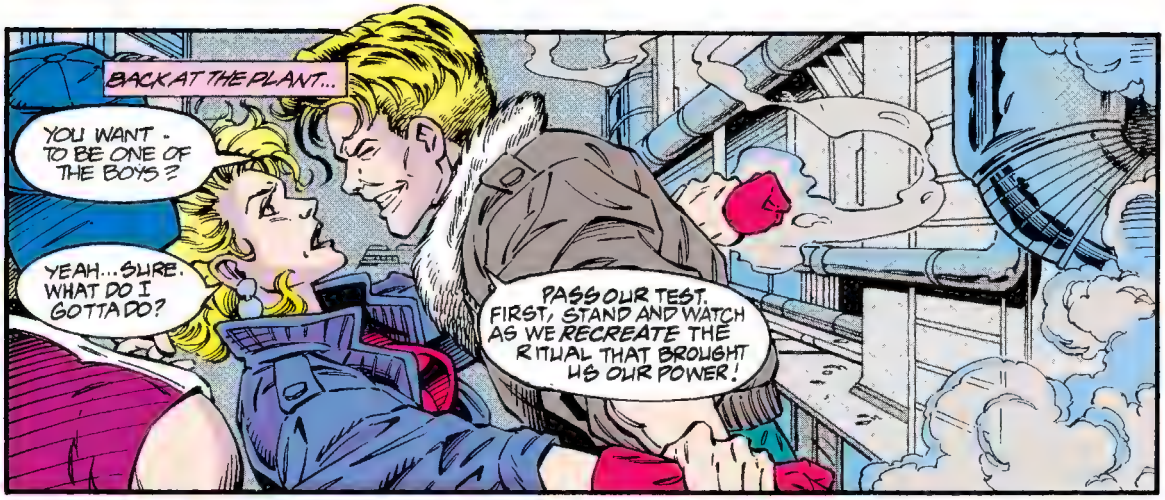
THE FLOORBOARD CREAKED!
SOMEBODY'S HOME!
TIME FOR A "LIGHT" BOMB!
THUNK
SNIKT
WOLVERINE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!
THE KID THAT LIVES HERE, I SAW HIM WITH A STATUE TODAY--YOU KNOW, THE STOLEN ONE...
...IT WAS IN THE NEWSPAPER TODAY... COME ON, MAN... LET ME UP!
ONLY IF YOU GO HOME, NOW.
YOU STUMBLED IN ON SOMETHIN' HERE...
SOMETHIN' BIG, BAD, AN' UGLY IS BREWIN' IN THIS TOWN--

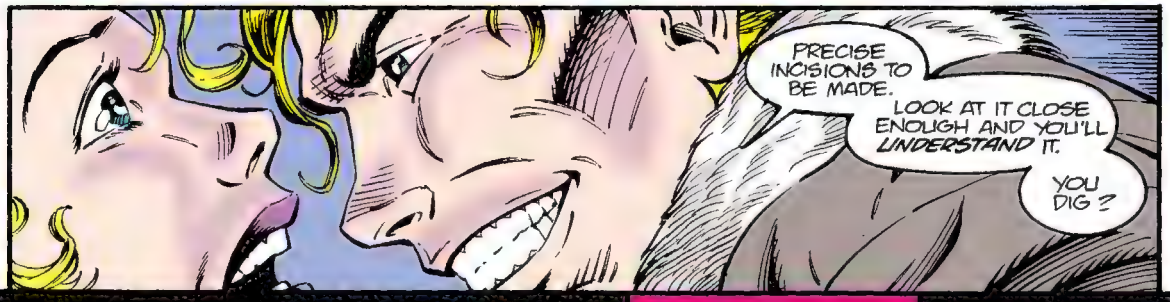

--YOU'RE IN OVER YOUR HEAD, LITTLE GIRL!
I AIN'T LITTLE! I'M NOT SOME KID!
YES YOU ARE.
NOW GO HOME!
NO! I GOT MY OWN BUSINESS HERE!
THAT'S IT, BOOM BOOM.
MAYBE YOU USED TO.
WH-WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME--
SHUT UP.
OKAY, OPEN YOUR EYES WIDE!
THIS IS JUST A TASTE OF WHAT I'M FINDIN' OUT HERE IN THESE WOODS.
OH, BOY...
NOW WILL YOU GET OUT OF HERE AND GO BACK TO X-FORCE!


DON'T WORRY, KID-- I'LL CALL IN IF I NEED HELP.
GOT IT?
YEAH... OKAY... I'M GONE... I'M HISTORY...
SOON...
YEAH, RIGHT.
SURE, WOLVERINE, YES BOSS, RIGHT AWAY MASTER.
YEAH, RIGHT.
WHAT I DIDN'T TELL YOU IS THAT I HEARD SOMEONE IN THE ATTIC OF JIMMY'S HOUSE!
HELLO, BOOM-BOOM.
OH!
SCARED YA?
NOPE.
LISTEN, I WANNA KNOW ABOUT THE STOLEN STATUE, AND I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO IN THE WOODS!
IT'S A BOYS' CLUB. FOR BOYS ONLY.
WANNA JOIN?
UH... OKAY.
HIGH ABOVE, AN AIRPLANE ARCS OVER THE TWIN TOWERS...

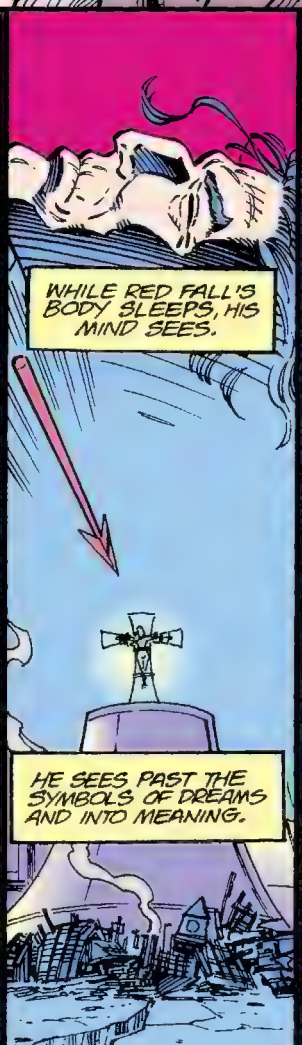
AND INSIDE...
JIMMY SAYS WE NEED OLD RELICS WITH LOTSA POWER, SO WE CAN REVERSE TIME.
ALL THE STUFF THAT PLAQUE SAID--ABOUT HOW HAVIN' THIS DESTINY SPEAR IS LIKE RIDIN' THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE--
--WE'RE GONNA CHANGE FATE!
STEVEN --QUIT SQUIRMING!
YES, FATHER.
MINUTES LATER, WOLVERINE IS ONCE AGAIN CONFRONTED BY THE OLD MAN.
WOLVERINE, YOU MUST TRY TO HEAR ME.
THESE ARE THE TRADITIONAL INDIAN WAYS, BUT THEY COULD BE YOURS.
THE TRUE WORLD LIES BEHIND THIS ONE, AND CAN BE ACCESSED IN THE DREAMREALM.
YOU ARE NOBLE, A WARRIOR, YOU TOO COULD LIVE IN DREAMS.
BUT NOW IT IS I, RED FALL, THAT WILL RIDE THE SANDS.
I WILL FIND YOUR VISION, AND LOOK FOR CLUES. I MUST TRUST YOU TO PROTECT MY BODY WHILE IT APPEARS TO SLEEP.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M STANDIN' HERE GUARDING SOME GUY'S NAP-TIME.
WHAT NEXT?

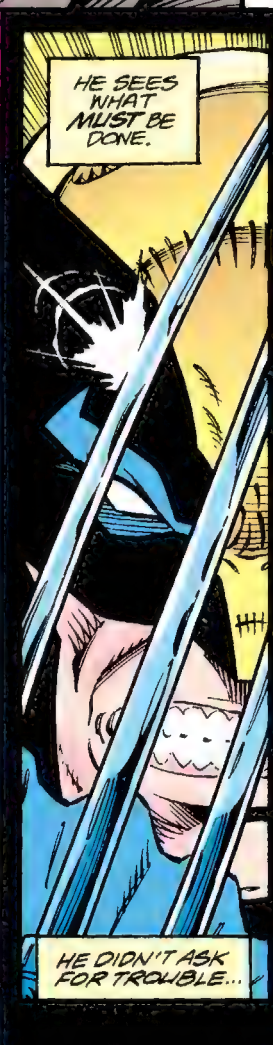
INSIDE GYCON'S ABANDONED NUCLEAR PLANT...
...THROUGH RITUAL WE WILL DRAG THE RACE OF MAN BACK, BACK TO BEFORE TECHNOLOGY RUINED THE PLANET.
BACK BEFORE ASBESTOS AND RADON AND SILICON AND URANIUM AND PLASTIC...
IF YOU'VE GOT THE FAITH--
--I'VE GOT THE SCALPELS!
AND IF THIS GIRL-- A GIRL WHO WISHES SHE WERE A BOY-- CAN WITHSTAND THE RITUAL--
--SHE BECOMES ONE OF US!
A DEVO!
CRASH
AND ANOTHER SET OF CLAWS ARE BARED IN THE WOODS...
...THIS TIME IN DEFENSE.
GLASS BREAKING... SCENTS OF NINE, TEN-- A DOZEN MEN!
SNIKT
HEH HEH. JUST WHEN I WAS GETTIN' BORED.


BACK AT THE PLANT...
YOU WANT - TO BE ONE OF THE BOYS?
YEAH... SURE. WHAT DO I GOTTA DO?
PASS OUR TEST. FIRST, STAND AND WATCH AS WE RECREATE THE RITUAL THAT BROUGHT US OUR POWER!


PRECISE INCISIONS TO BE MADE.
LOOK AT IT CLOSE ENOUGH AND YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IT.
YOU DIG?

YOUR THIRST FOR MY DARK KNOWLEDGE HAS BROUGHT ME BACK.
BEGIN THE TEST. IF SHE IS STRONG ENOUGH, SHE CAN BECOME ONE OF US.
IF NOT, WE WILL FIND KNOWLEDGE THROUGH DISSECTION -- OF HER!
THE DEADMAN!
NOT ANY-MORE.


WHILE RED FALL'S BODY SLEEPS, HIS MIND SEES.
HE SEES PAST THE SYMBOLS OF DREAMS AND INTO MEANING.


HE SEES WHAT MUST BE DONE.
HE DIDN'T ASK FOR TROUBLE...

...BUT HE WILL NOT LET THE OLD MAN BE HARMED.

TWO BATTLES ARE TAKING PLACE -- ONE FOR A MAN...

...AND ONE FOR MANKIND.

OHMYGOD! NOOO!!

SQAWK

THERE'S A DOZEN OF THEM AND ONLY ONE OF ME! MOOD I'M IN -- THE ODDS ARE PRETTY BAD -- FOR *THEM*!

I CAN'T LET THEM KILL THESE ANIMALS!

BOOM

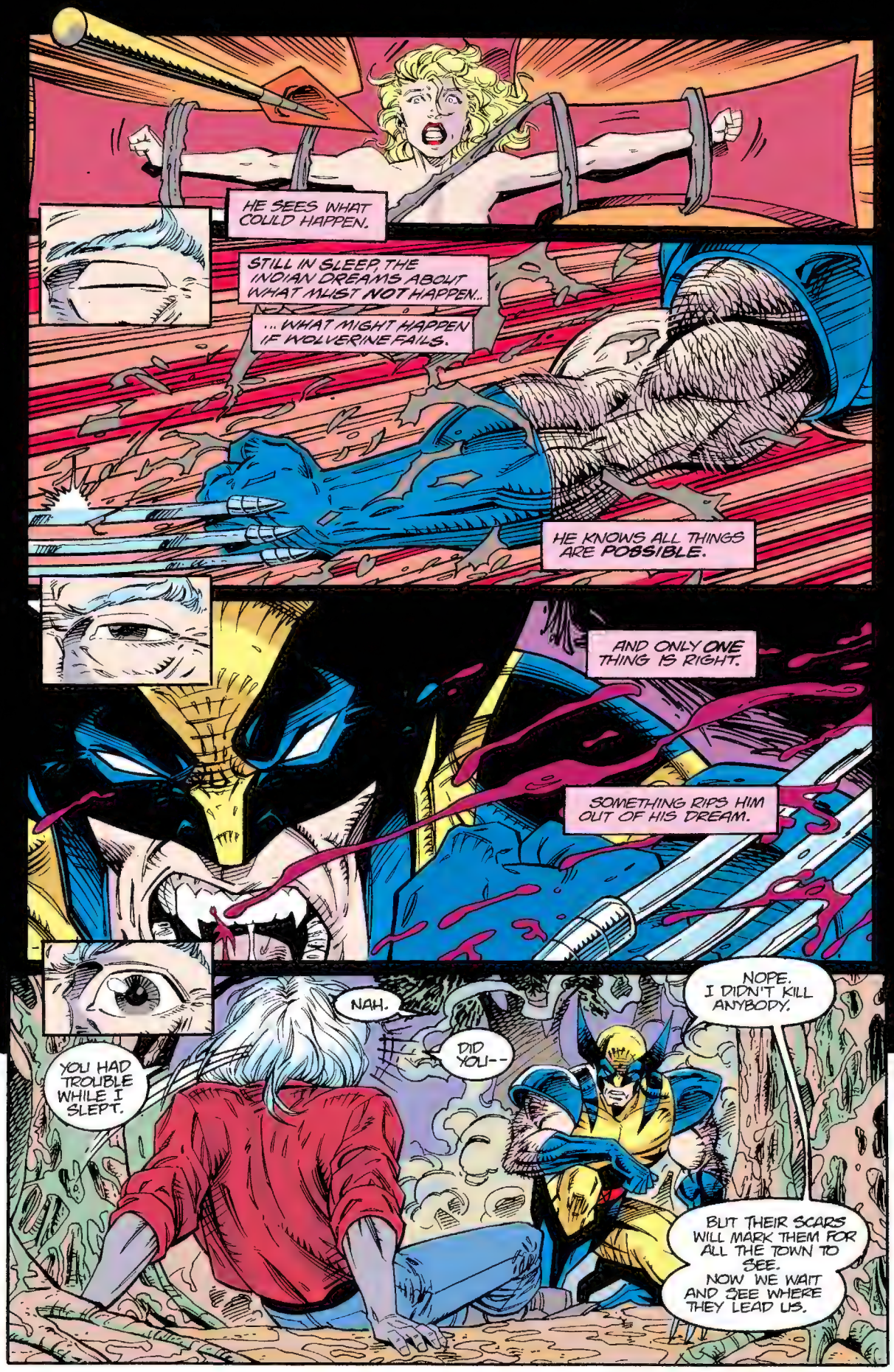
SO SHE REBELS! SHE IS WEAK, WEAK, AND FOREVER A GIRL!

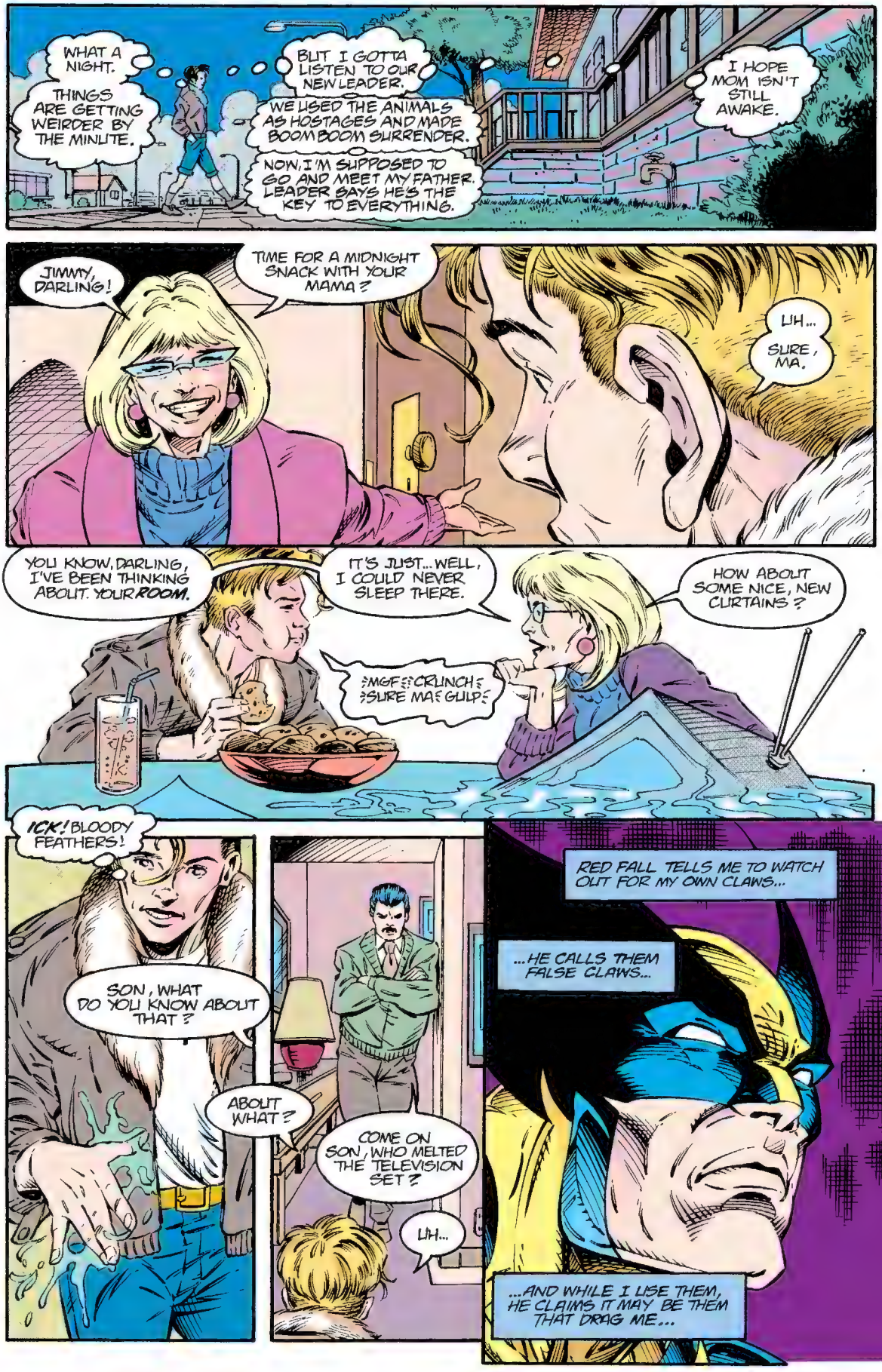
BUT I SEE NOW WHY YOU WERE SENT TO ME.

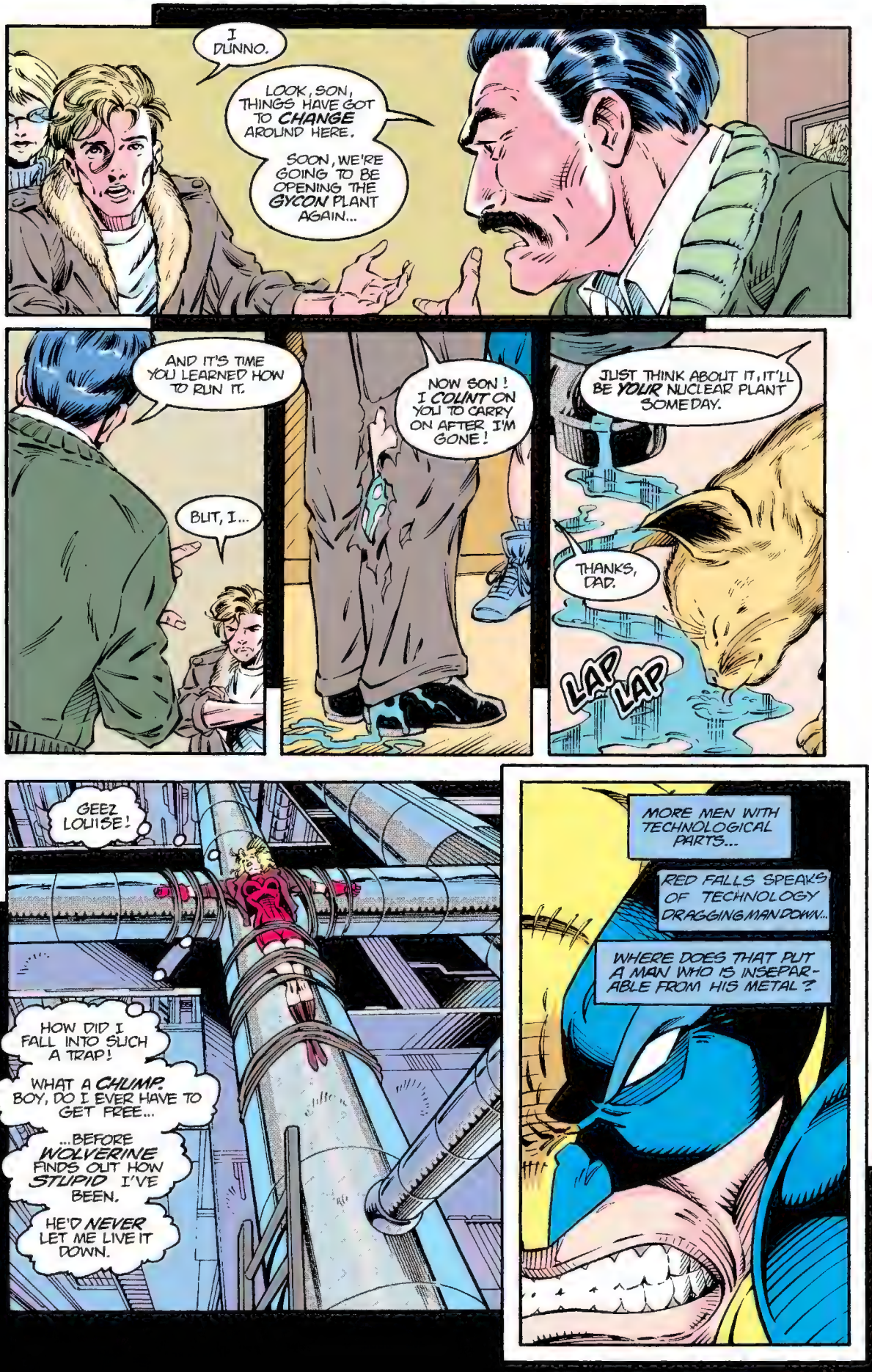
YOU MAKE *FIREWORKS* -- YOU TOSS THEM OUT OF YOUR *HANDS*.

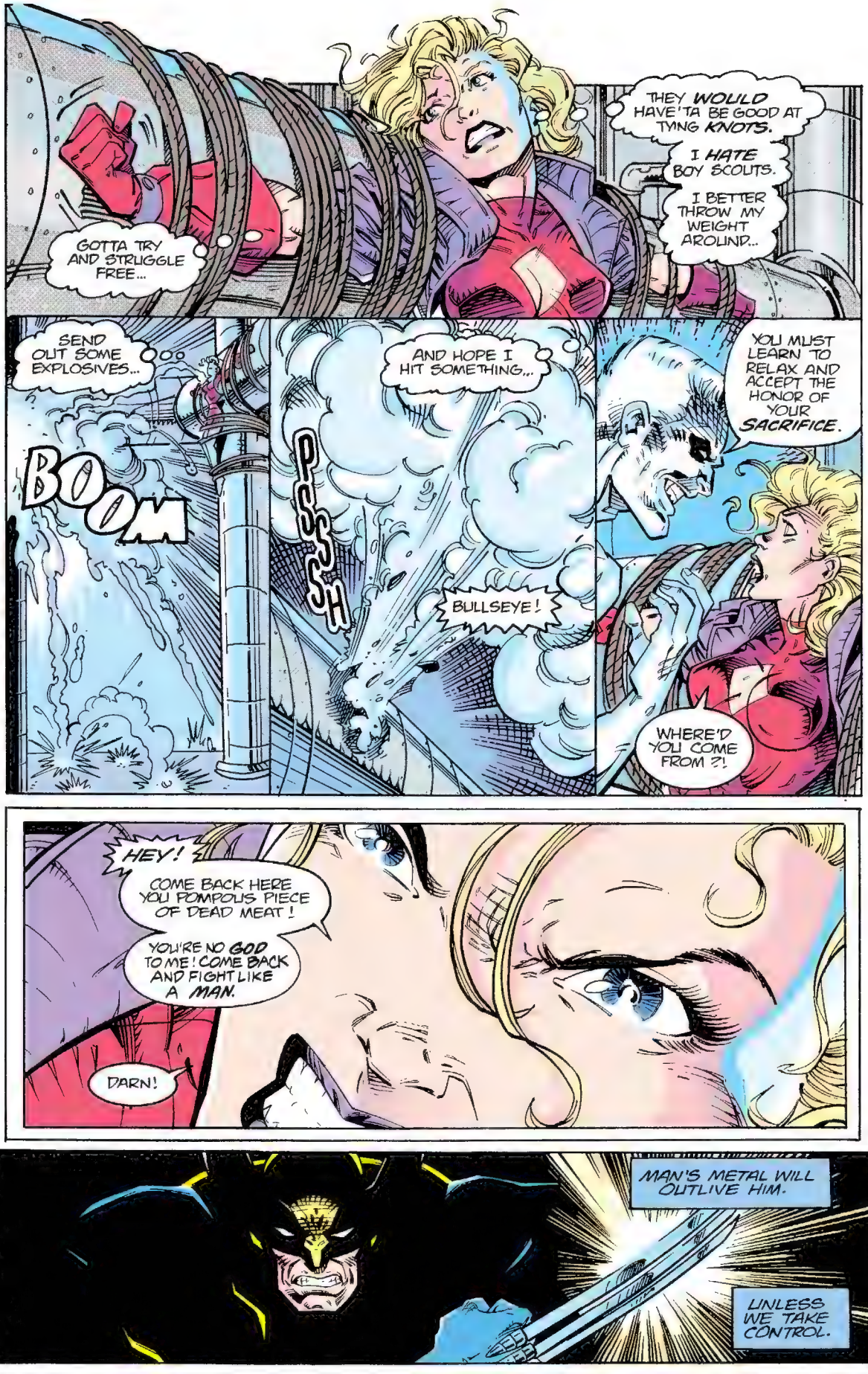
HOW DO YOU DO THAT? YOU ARE AN ANIMAL, BUT YOU HAVE EXPLOSIVES RUNNING THROUGH YOUR BLOOD.

YOU MUST BE A TECHNO-ANIMAL, SENT TO US TO LOOK AT.


HE SEES WHAT COULD HAPPEN.
STILL IN SLEEP, THE INDIAN DREAMS ABOUT WHAT MUST NOT HAPPEN...
... WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IF WOLVERINE FAILS.
HE KNOWS ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.
AND ONLY ONE THING IS RIGHT.
SOMETHING RIPS HIM OUT OF HIS DREAM.
YOU HAD TROUBLE WHILE I SLEPT.
NAH.
DID YOU--
NOPE. I DIDN'T KILL ANYBODY.
BUT THEIR SCARS WILL MARK THEM FOR ALL THE TOWN TO SEE.
NOW WE WAIT AND SEE WHERE THEY LEAD US.


WHAT A NIGHT.
THINGS ARE GETTING WEIRDER BY THE MINUTE.
BUT I GOTTA LISTEN TO OUR NEW LEADER.
WE USED THE ANIMALS AS HOSTAGES AND MADE BOOM BOOM SURRENDER.
NOW, I'M SUPPOSED TO GO AND MEET MY FATHER. LEADER SAYS HE'S THE KEY TO EVERYTHING.
I HOPE MOM ISN'T STILL AWAKE.
JIMMY, DARLING!
TIME FOR A MIDNIGHT SNACK WITH YOUR MAMA?
UH... SURE, MA.
YOU KNOW, DARLING, I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT YOUR ROOM.
IT'S JUST... WELL, I COULD NEVER SLEEP THERE.
HOW ABOUT SOME NICE, NEW CURTAINS?
MGF CRUNCH SURE MA GULP
ICK! BLOODY FEATHERS!
SON, WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?
ABOUT WHAT?
COME ON SON, WHO MELTED THE TELEVISION SET?
UH...
RED FALL TELLS ME TO WATCH OUT FOR MY OWN CLAWS...
...HE CALLS THEM FALSE CLAWS...
...AND WHILE I USE THEM, HE CLAIMS IT MAY BE THEM THAT DRAG ME...

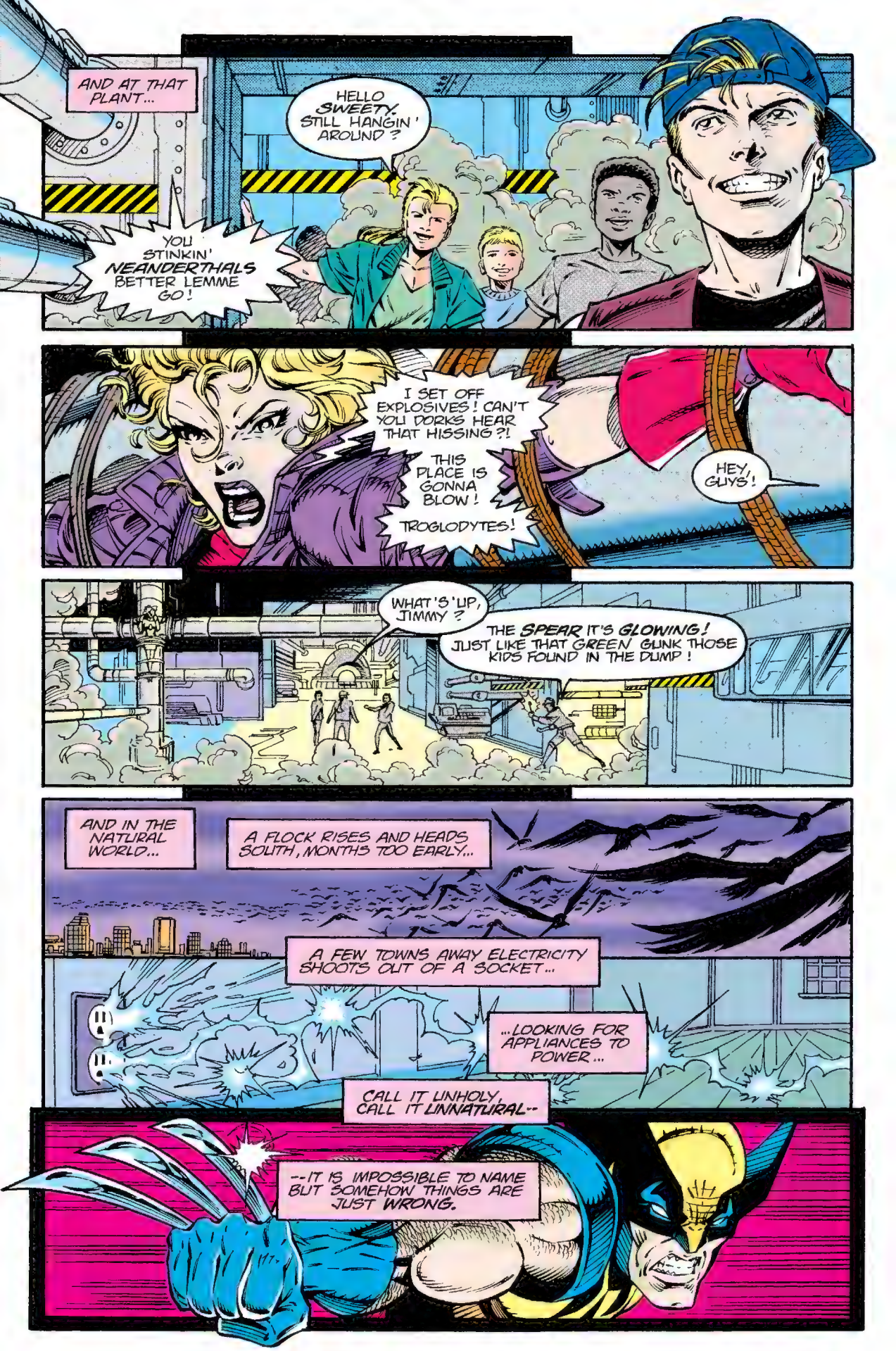

I DUNNO.
LOOK, SON, THINGS HAVE GOT TO CHANGE AROUND HERE.
SOON, WE'RE GOING TO BE OPENING THE GYCON PLANT AGAIN...
AND IT'S TIME YOU LEARNED HOW TO RUN IT.
BUT, I...
NOW SON! I COUNT ON YOU TO CARRY ON AFTER I'M GONE!
JUST THINK ABOUT IT, IT'LL BE YOUR NUCLEAR PLANT SOMEDAY.
THANKS, DAD.
LAP LAP
GEEZ LOUISE!
HOW DID I FALL INTO SUCH A TRAP!
WHAT A CHUMP. BOY, DO I EVER HAVE TO GET FREE...
...BEFORE WOLVERINE FINDS OUT HOW STUPID I'VE BEEN.
HE'D NEVER LET ME LIVE IT DOWN.
MORE MEN WITH TECHNOLOGICAL PARTS...
RED FALLS SPEAKS OF TECHNOLOGY DRAGGING MAN DOWN...
WHERE DOES THAT PUT A MAN WHO IS INSEPARABLE FROM HIS METAL?

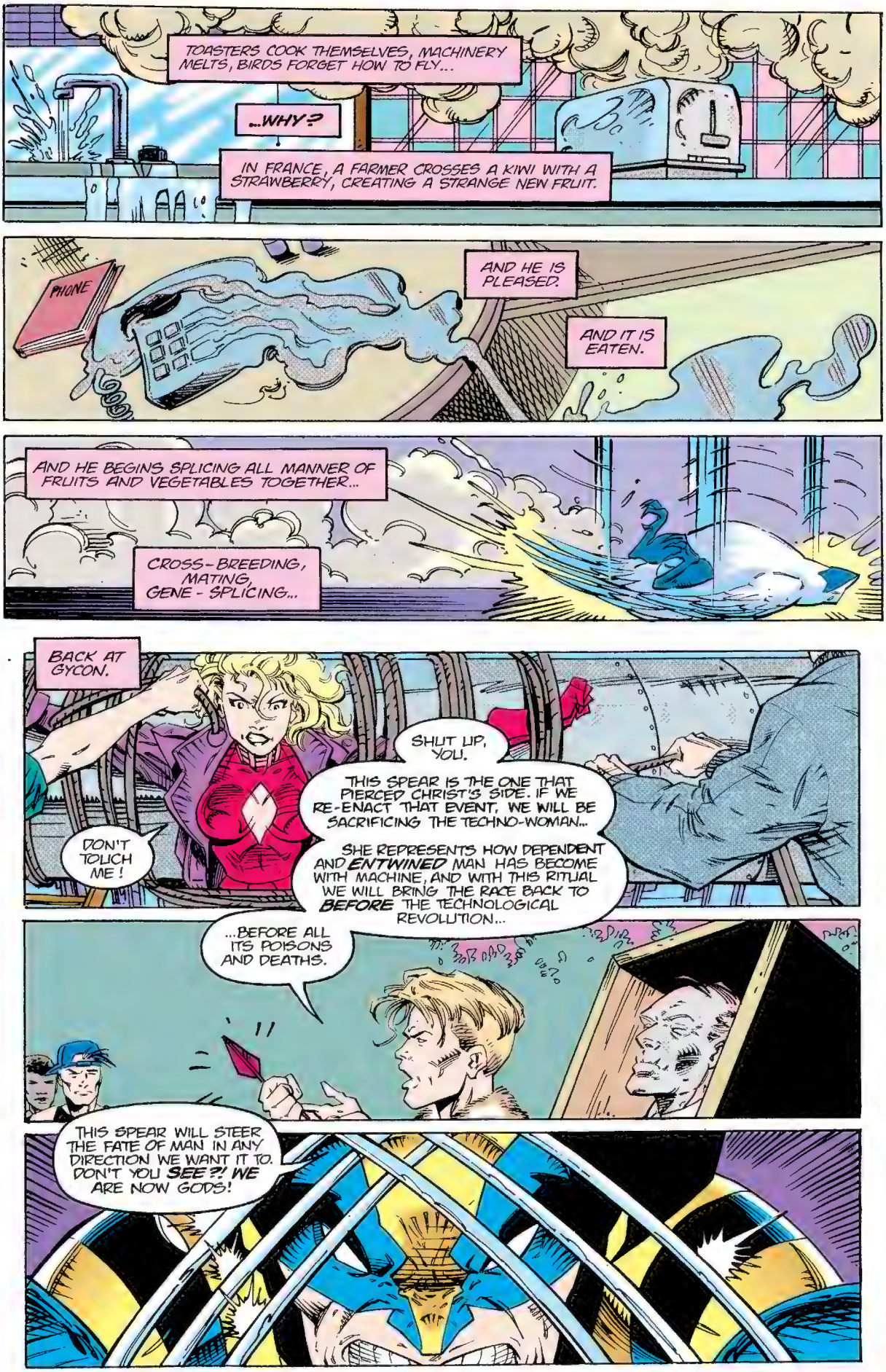

GOTTA TRY AND STRUGGLE FREE...
THEY WOULD HAVE 'TA BE GOOD AT TYING KNOTS.
I HATE BOY SCOUTS.
I BETTER THROW MY WEIGHT AROUND...
SEND OUT SOME EXPLOSIVES...
BOOM
AND HOPE I HIT SOMETHING...
PSSSH
BULLSEYE!
YOU MUST LEARN TO RELAX AND ACCEPT THE HONOR OF YOUR SACRIFICE.
WHERE'D YOU COME FROM ?!
HEY!
COME BACK HERE YOU POMPOUS PIECE OF DEAD MEAT!
YOU'RE NO GOD TO ME! COME BACK AND FIGHT LIKE A MAN.
DARN!
MAN'S METAL WILL OUTLIVE HIM.
UNLESS WE TAKE CONTROL.

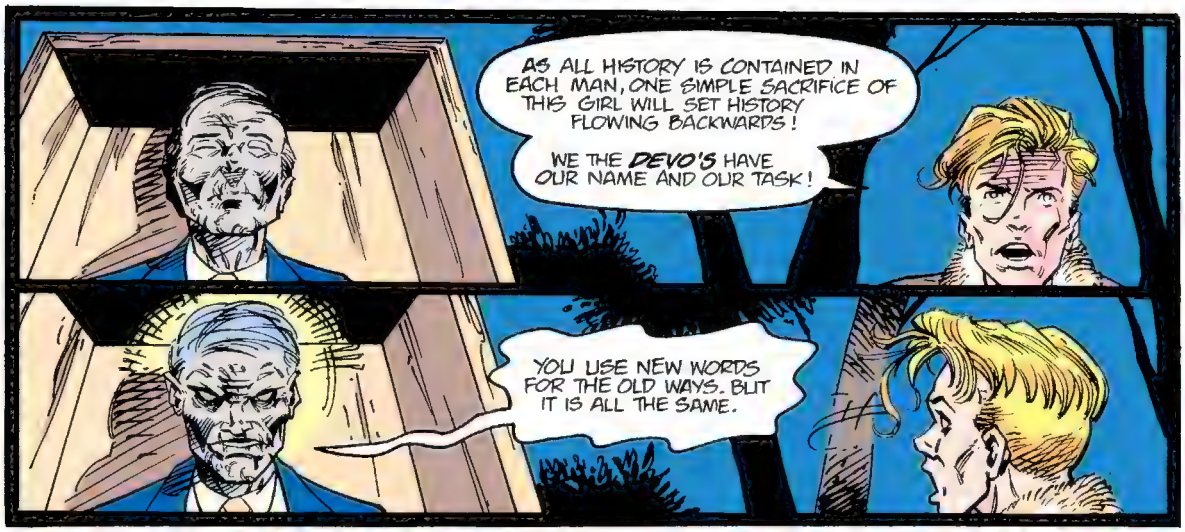
MORNING, PRESCOTT...
CAN'T FIGURE RED FALL'S DREAM...
I SAW A NUCLEAR WARHEAD ROCKETING TOWARDS THIS TOWN...
BUT HE SAW IT AS A PRIMITIVE SPEAR.
AND NOW WE GOT THE TOWN FATHERS TRYING TO KILL HIM...
...BUT THEIR SCENTS DON'T MATCH THE ONES I SMELLED AT THAT WACKY RITUAL SCENE IN THE WOODS.
AND WHERE'S BOOM-BOOM DISAPPEARED TO?
CHING
WHAT'S THIS MUG LOOKIN' AT?
HEY!
THAT PHONE'S MELTING!
MELTING PHONE? NOW WHAT?
WAIT! CATCHIN' A SCENT...
THERE'RE MY CLAW MARKS.
THAT'S THE THIRD SCAR I'VE SEEN.
ALL THREE SCARED AND PARANOID--
-- SO THEY AIN'T A PROBLEM RIGHT NOW.
BUT WHAT IS?
AND WHAT'S MY NEXT MOVE?

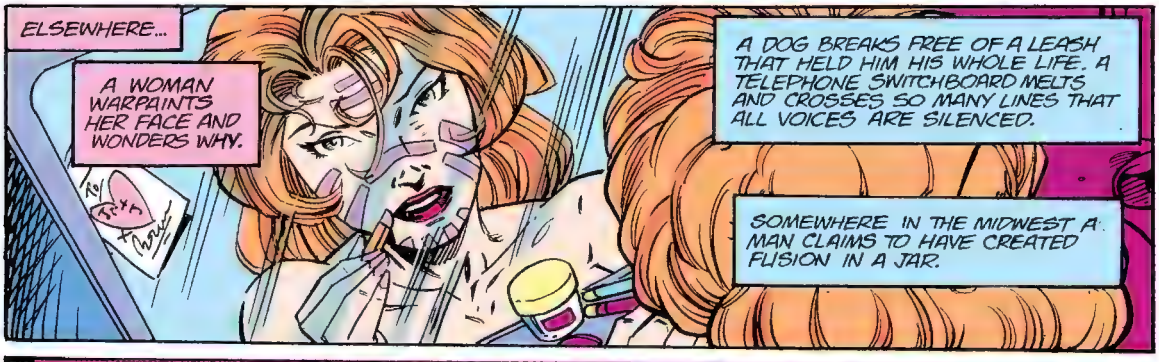
AT JIMMY'S HOUSE...
WHERE'D YOU GET IT?
GERMANY, I WAS THERE WITH MY DAD TO GO TO ONE OF HIS DUMB MEETINGS.
ONLY THIS ONE WAS HELD IN A MUSEUM AND I SAW THIS IN A CASE...
...SO I COPPED IT... COOL, AIN'T IT?
THE SIGN SAID THAT ANYBODY WHO OWNS THIS SPEAR CAN ALTER FATE!
IT USED TO BE HITLER'S!
C'MON!
HEY! YOU TWO GET BACK HERE!
FIRST THE TV, AND NOW MY ENGINE'S MELTED!
I'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS!
LATER, DAD.
I SAID NOW!
COME BACK HERE OR BY GOD I'LL CALL THE POLICE ON MY OWN SON!
DON'T STOP!
I GOTTA.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR SHENANIGANS, JIMMY!
NOW YOU'RE WEARING MAKE-UP AND JEWELRY!
NO SON OF MINE'S GONNA ACT LIKE A GIRL!
WHAT, I SHOULD WEAR A SUIT LIKE YOU?
DON'T YOU DARE TALK BACK TO YOUR FATHER!
GET IN THE HOUSE!
NO
NOW, SON--
--DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT YOU MUST GROOM YOURSELF TO TAKE MY PLACE?
A SON'S FATE IS IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HIS FATHER!
NEVER!
I'D RATHER BLOW UP THAT NUCLEAR PLANT THAN WORK IN IT!
I MAKE MY OWN FATE!
I DON'T LIKE YOUR TONE OF VOICE, YOUNG MAN!
"SOMEDAY YOU'LL SEE YOUR FATHER'S WISDOM STANDS FOR PROGRESS..."

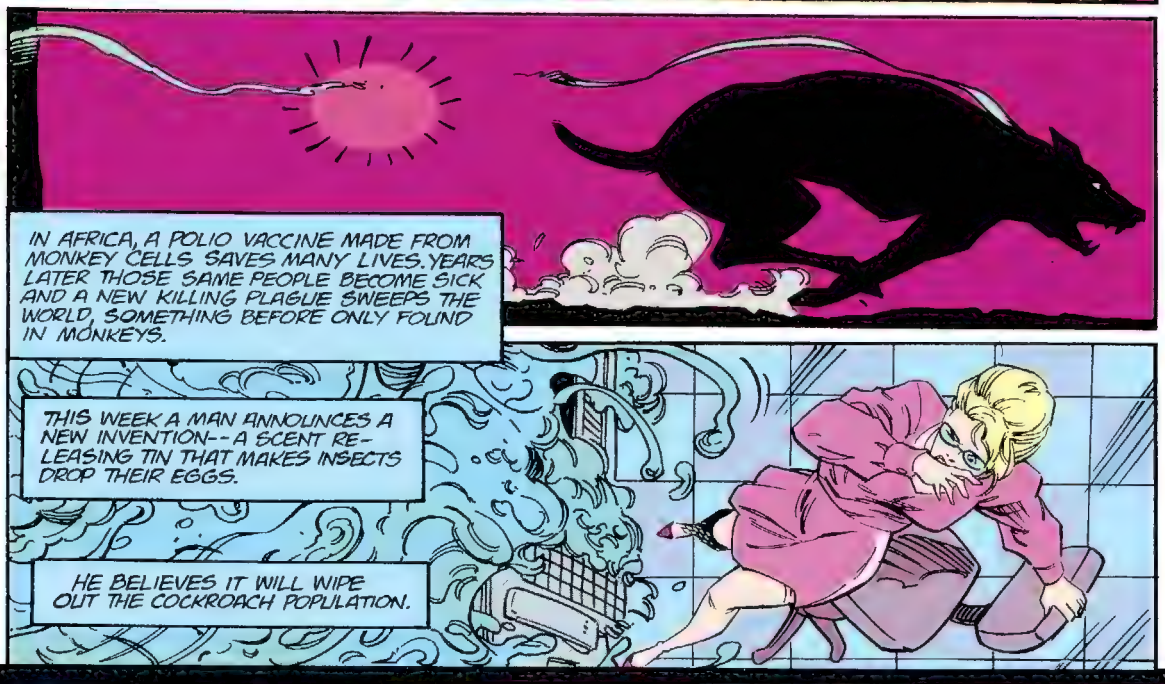
PROGRESS?
LIKE THE INDIANS WERE SLAUGHTERED A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FOR STANDING IN THE WAY OF PROGRESS--
--ARE YOU WILLING TO SLAUGHTER YOUR OWN SON?
WE ARE THE DEVOS--NOBLE SAVAGES, WE WANT DEVOLUTION!
WE ARE THE LAST STAND AGAINST A CIVILIZATION THAT IS BENT ON DESTROYING THE WORLD!
YOU INSOLENT DISRESPECTFUL BRAT!
WAK
I AM YOUR FATHER!
NO, YOU'RE NOT!
WOP
I'VE FOUND A NEW FATHER!
HOW DARE YOU!
THAT'S ENOUGH OUT OF YOU.
NOW YOU MARCH STRAIGHT--
--JIMMY!
COME BACK HERE!
ALL'S QUIET IN THE TOWN.
BOTH MY DREAM AND RED FALL'S TOOK PLACE AT THE POWER PLANT.
TIME TO GO THERE AND SEE WHAT'S WHAT.


AND AT THAT PLANT...
HELLO SWEETY. STILL HANGIN' AROUND?
YOU STINKIN' NEANDERTHALS BETTER LEMME GO!
I SET OFF EXPLOSIVES! CAN'T YOU DORKS HEAR THAT HISSING?!
THIS PLACE IS GONNA BLOW!
TROGLODYTES!
HEY, GUYS!
WHAT'S UP, JIMMY?
THE SPEAR IT'S GLOWING! JUST LIKE THAT GREEN GUNK THOSE KIDS FOUND IN THE DUMP!
AND IN THE NATURAL WORLD...
A FLOCK RISES AND HEADS SOUTH, MONTHS TOO EARLY...
A FEW TOWNS AWAY ELECTRICITY SHOOTS OUT OF A SOCKET...
...LOOKING FOR APPLIANCES TO POWER...
CALL IT UNHOLY, CALL IT UNNATURAL--
--IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO NAME BUT SOMEHOW THINGS ARE JUST WRONG.

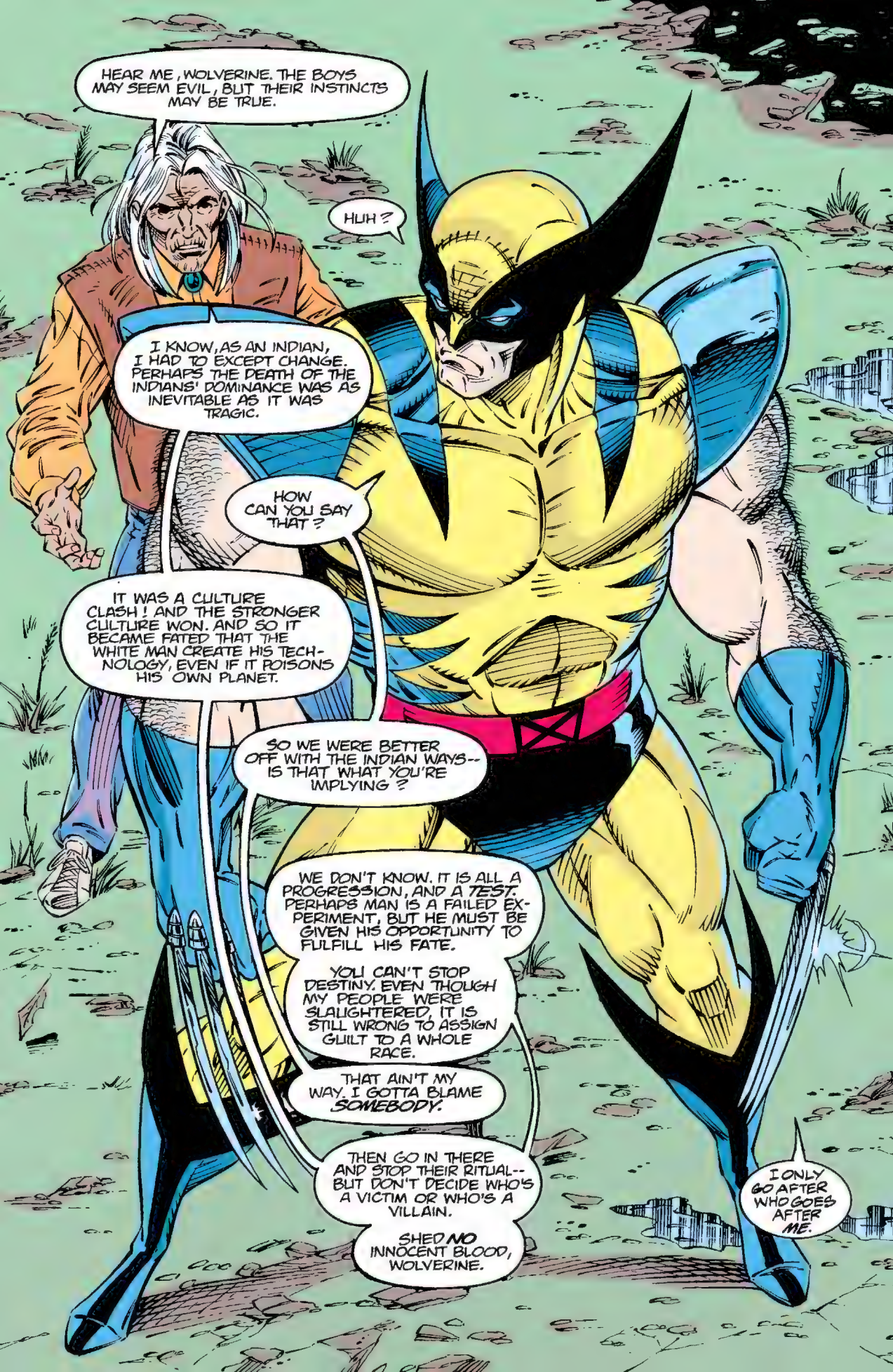

TOASTERS COOK THEMSELVES, MACHINERY MELTS, BIRDS FORGET HOW TO FLY...
...WHY?
IN FRANCE, A FARMER CROSSES A KIWI WITH A STRAWBERRY, CREATING A STRANGE NEW FRUIT.
PHONE
AND HE IS PLEASED.
AND IT IS EATEN.
AND HE BEGINS SPLICING ALL MANNER OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES TOGETHER...
CROSS-BREEDING, MATING, GENE-SPLICING...
BACK AT GYCON.
SHUT UP, YOU.
THIS SPEAR IS THE ONE THAT PIERCED CHRIST'S SIDE. IF WE RE-ENACT THAT EVENT, WE WILL BE SACRIFICING THE TECHNO-WOMAN...
DON'T TOUCH ME!
SHE REPRESENTS HOW DEPENDENT AND ENTWINED MAN HAS BECOME WITH MACHINE, AND WITH THIS RITUAL WE WILL BRING THE RACE BACK TO BEFORE THE TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION...
...BEFORE ALL ITS POISONS AND DEATHS.
THIS SPEAR WILL STEER THE FATE OF MAN IN ANY DIRECTION WE WANT IT TO. DON'T YOU SEE?! WE ARE NOW GODS!

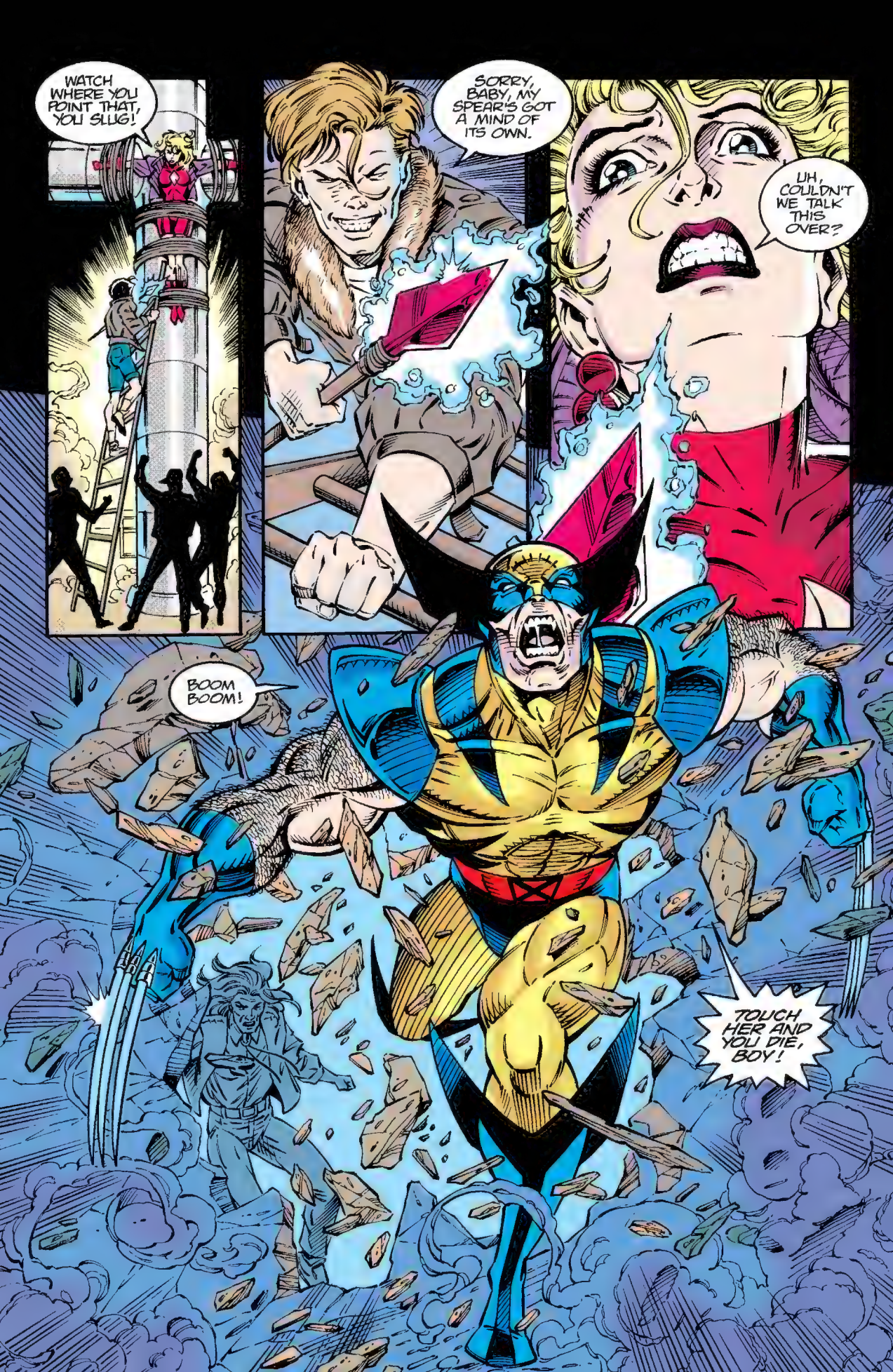

AS ALL HISTORY IS CONTAINED IN EACH MAN, ONE SIMPLE SACRIFICE OF THIS GIRL WILL SET HISTORY FLOWING BACKWARDS!
WE THE DEVO'S HAVE OUR NAME AND OUR TASK!
YOU USE NEW WORDS FOR THE OLD WAYS. BUT IT IS ALL THE SAME.

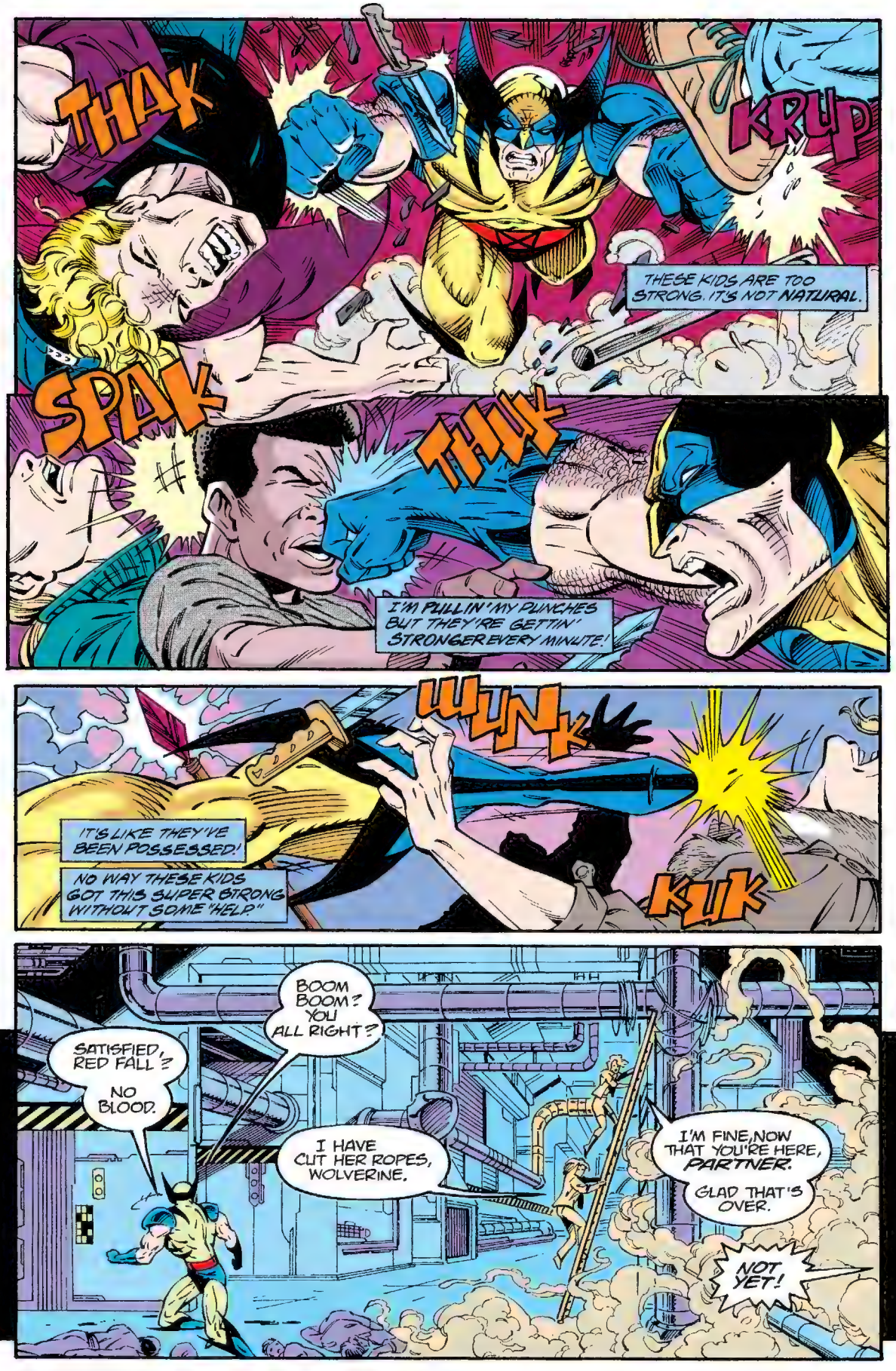

ELSEWHERE...
A WOMAN WARPAINTS HER FACE AND WONDERS WHY.
A DOG BREAKS FREE OF A LEASH THAT HELD HIM HIS WHOLE LIFE. A TELEPHONE SWITCHBOARD MELTS AND CROSSES SO MANY LINES THAT ALL VOICES ARE SILENCED.
SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDWEST A MAN CLAIMS TO HAVE CREATED FUSION IN A JAR.


IN AFRICA, A POLIO VACCINE MADE FROM MONKEY CELLS SAVES MANY LIVES. YEARS LATER THOSE SAME PEOPLE BECOME SICK AND A NEW KILLING PLAGUE SWEEPS THE WORLD, SOMETHING BEFORE ONLY FOUND IN MONKEYS.
THIS WEEK A MAN ANNOUNCES A NEW INVENTION--A SCENT RELEASING TIN THAT MAKES INSECTS DROP THEIR EGGS.
HE BELIEVES IT WILL WIPE OUT THE COCKROACH POPULATION.
WHAT ELSE WILL THIS NEW SMELL STERILIZE ?

AND OUTSIDE THE NUCLEAR PLANT...
I SEE SOMEONE!
GOING INTO THE PLANT--IT'S NOT THE TOWN FATHERS--
--IT'S THEIR SONS!
THEN IT IS TIME.
THAT'S BOOM BOOM!
EEEEEK
YO, WE'RE LATE FOR THE RITUAL.
SO, GO ON IN.
IF THEY'VE HURT HER--
NO!
THERE'S ANOTHER WAY!
NOT THE CLAWS!
SNIKT


HEAR ME, WOLVERINE. THE BOYS MAY SEEM EVIL, BUT THEIR INSTINCTS MAY BE TRUE.
HUH?
I KNOW, AS AN INDIAN, I HAD TO EXCEPT CHANGE. PERHAPS THE DEATH OF THE INDIANS' DOMINANCE WAS AS INEVITABLE AS IT WAS TRAGIC.
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?
IT WAS A CULTURE CLASH! AND THE STRONGER CULTURE WON. AND SO IT BECAME FATED THAT THE WHITE MAN CREATE HIS TECHNOLOGY, EVEN IF IT POISONS HIS OWN PLANET.
SO WE WERE BETTER OFF WITH THE INDIAN WAYS-- IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE IMPLYING?
WE DON'T KNOW. IT IS ALL A PROGRESSION, AND A *TEST*. PERHAPS MAN IS A FAILED EXPERIMENT, BUT HE MUST BE GIVEN HIS OPPORTUNITY TO FULFILL HIS FATE.
YOU CAN'T STOP DESTINY. EVEN THOUGH MY PEOPLE WERE SLAUGHTERED, IT IS STILL WRONG TO ASSIGN GUILT TO A WHOLE RACE.
THAT AIN'T MY WAY. I GOTTA BLAME *SOMEBODY*.
THEN GO IN THERE AND STOP THEIR RITUAL-- BUT DON'T DECIDE WHO'S A VICTIM OR WHO'S A VILLAIN.
SHED *NO* INNOCENT BLOOD, WOLVERINE.
I ONLY GO AFTER WHO GOES AFTER *ME*.


WATCH WHERE YOU POINT THAT, YOU SLUG!
SORRY, BABY, MY SPEAR'S GOT A MIND OF ITS OWN.
UH, COULDN'T WE TALK THIS OVER?
BOOM BOOM!
TOUCH HER AND YOU DIE, BOY!


THAK
KRUP
THESE KIDS ARE TOO STRONG. IT'S NOT NATURAL.
SPAK
THUK
I'M PULLIN' MY PUNCHES BUT THEY'RE GETTIN' STRONGER EVERY MINUTE!
WUNK
KUK
IT'S LIKE THEY'VE BEEN POSSESSED!
NO WAY THESE KIDS GOT THIS SUPER STRONG WITHOUT SOME "HELP."
BOOM BOOM? YOU ALL RIGHT?
SATISFIED, RED FALL?
NO BLOOD.
I HAVE CUT HER ROPES, WOLVERINE.
I'M FINE, NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, PARTNER.
GLAD THAT'S OVER.
NOT YET!

CRIPES!

UH, LISTEN PALS--THIS GUY STINKS LIKE DEATH AND IS TWICE AS BIG--

--SO IF YOU'RE AT ALL SQUEAMISH--

--CLOSE YOUR EYES.

SWOK

AS FOR YOU--I GOT A *FEELIN'* YOU'RE BRINGING SOMETHIN' EVIL TO THIS TOWN--

--AND I AIN'T ABOUT TO ROLL OUT THE *WELCOME* WAGON FOR YA'.

NO NEED TO. I WAS ALWAYS HERE--WAITING--

--IN THE HEARTS OF MEN THAT WERE FAR TOO CURIOUS FOR THEIR OWN GOOD.

YOU MISUNDERSTAND, CLAWED ONE. I AM THE *SAVIOUR*.

I HAVE COME TO PUT THINGS AS THEY *SHOULD* BE. AS THEY *WERE*... BEFORE MEN DESECRATED *MY* WORLD.

AND IF THOSE CORRUPTED BY THEIR TECHNOLOGY RESIST ME...

... THEY WILL BE THE *FIRST* TO BE *SACRIFICED*.

HERE'S A BULLETIN, BIG GUY--

IF THERE'S ANY SACRIFICIN' TO BE DONE...

...*YOU'LL* BE THE ONE STEPPIN' UP TO YOUR MAKESHIFT ALTAR!

KAK

UNGH!

CAN'T KILL THE DEAD, WILD MAN.

THAM

THEN I GUESS I'LL DIE *TRYIN'*!

SNIKT

SHRAAK

HEH HEH.

KISS ME AGAIN.

--BOOM BOOM YOU MUST GET THE SPEAR TO HIM.

BUT IF WOLVERINE'S *CLANS* DON'T EVEN HURT THAT THING -- WHAT GOOD'S ONE OLD SPEAR GONNA DO ?

KRASH

JUST DO AS I *SAY!*

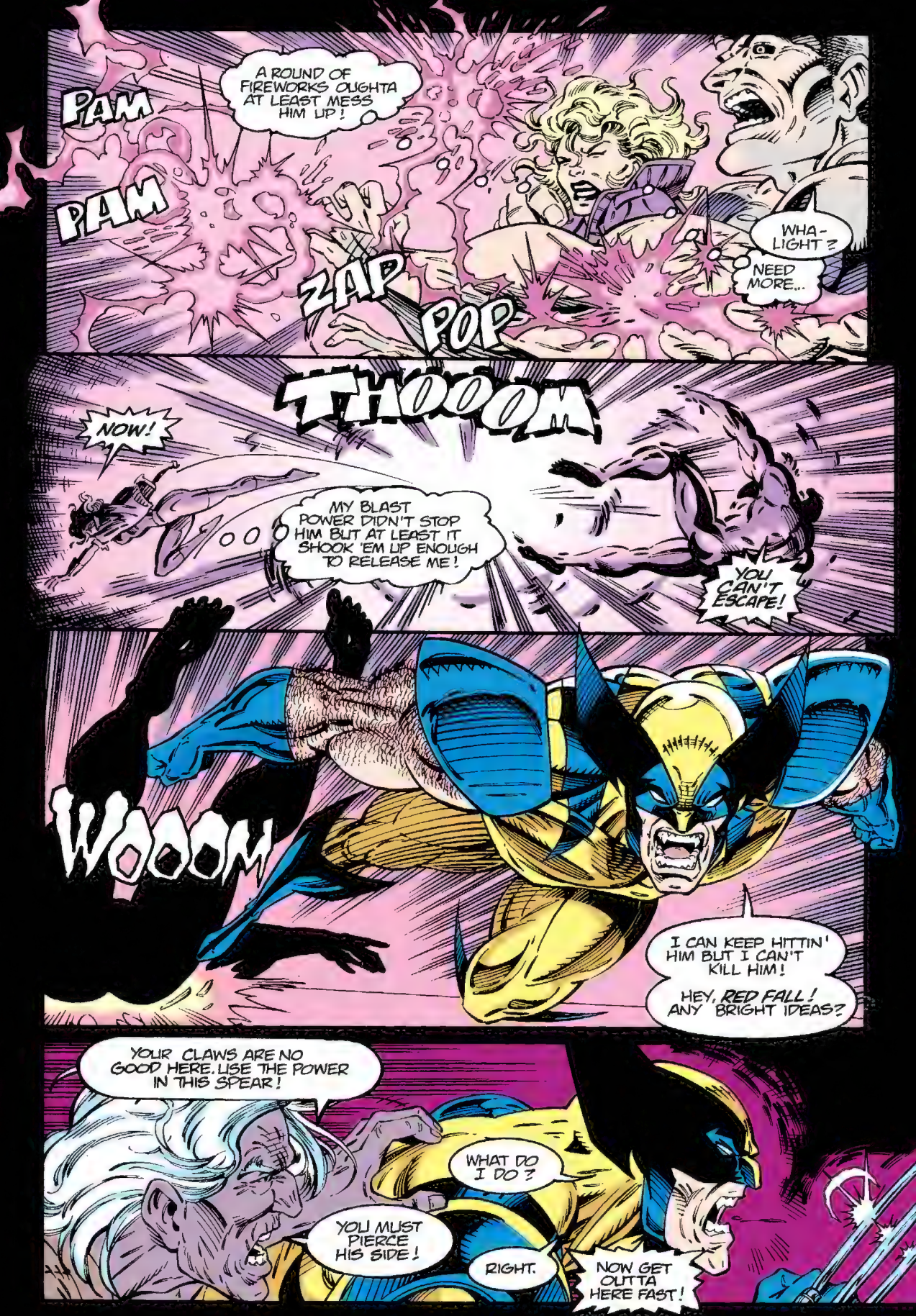
WOLVIE ! HERE ! TAKE THE SPEAR...!

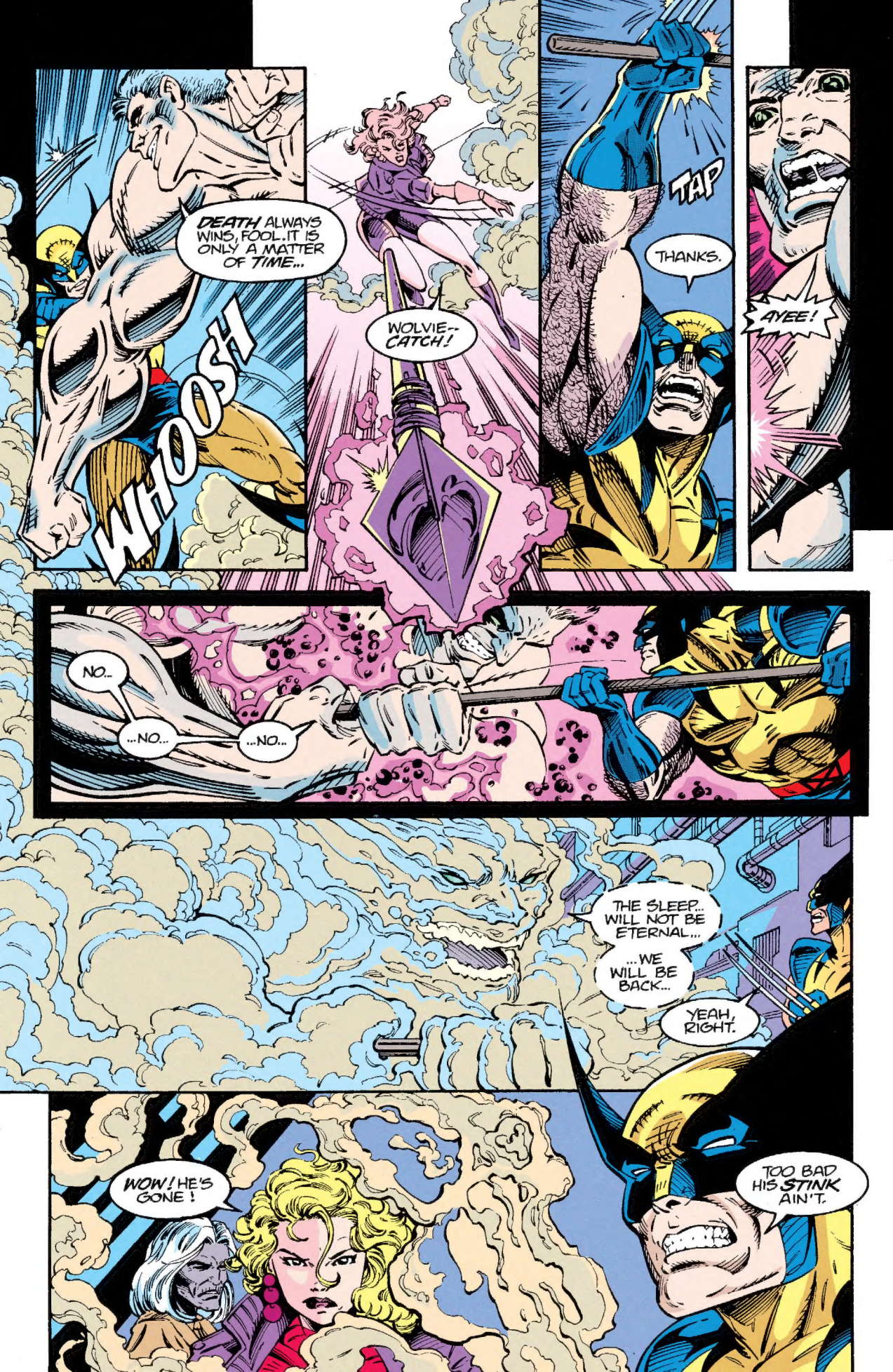
STILL WANT IN TO THE BOYS' CLUB, GIRLIE ?

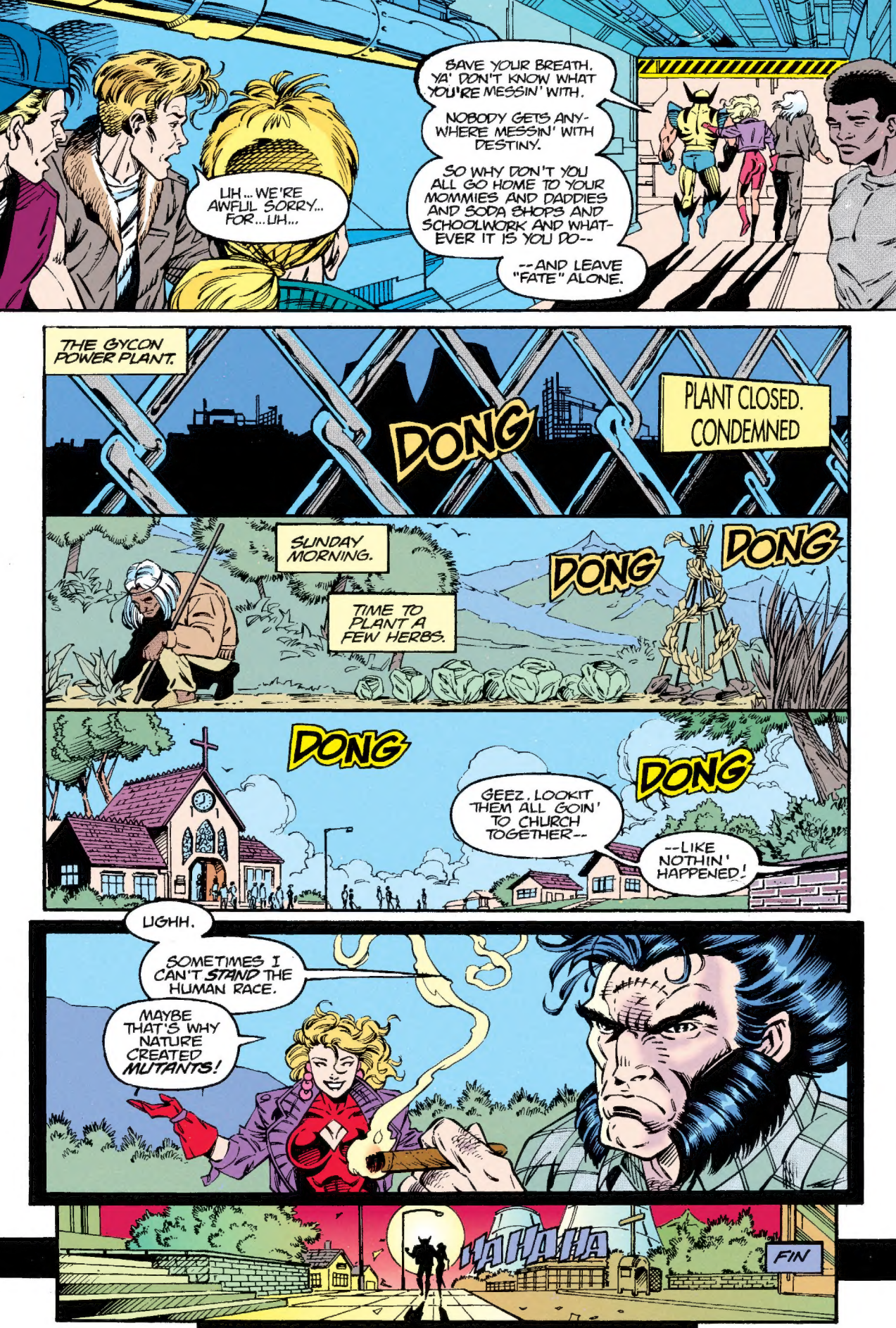
WAM

OOF!

HUH ?


A ROUND OF FIREWORKS OUGHTA AT LEAST MESS HIM UP!
PAM
PAM
ZAP
POP
WHA- LIGHT?
NEED MORE...
THOOOM
NOW!
MY BLAST POWER DIDN'T STOP HIM BUT AT LEAST IT SHOOK 'EM UP ENOUGH TO RELEASE ME!
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE!
WOOOM
I CAN KEEP HITTIN' HIM BUT I CAN'T KILL HIM!
HEY, RED FALL! ANY BRIGHT IDEAS?
YOUR CLAWS ARE NO GOOD HERE. USE THE POWER IN THIS SPEAR!
WHAT DO I DO?
YOU MUST PIERCE HIS SIDE!
RIGHT.
NOW GET OUTTA HERE FAST!


DEATH ALWAYS WINS, FOOL. IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME...
WHOOSH
WOLVIE-- CATCH!
TAP
THANKS.
AYEE!
NO..
...NO...
...NO...
THE SLEEP... WILL NOT BE ETERNAL...
...WE WILL BE BACK...
YEAH, RIGHT.
WOW! HE'S GONE!
TOO BAD HIS STINK AIN'T.


UH... WE'RE AWFUL SORRY... FOR... UH...
SAVE YOUR BREATH. YA' DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE MESSIN' WITH.
NOBODY GETS ANY-WHERE MESSIN' WITH DESTINY.
SO WHY DON'T YOU ALL GO HOME TO YOUR MOMMIES AND DADDIES AND SODA SHOPS AND SCHOOLWORK AND WHAT-EVER IT IS YOU DO--
--AND LEAVE "FATE" ALONE.
THE GYCON POWER PLANT.
DONG
PLANT CLOSED. CONDEMNED
SUNDAY MORNING.
TIME TO PLANT A FEW HERBS.
DONG
DONG
DONG
DONG
GEEZ. LOOKIT THEM ALL GOIN' TO CHURCH TOGETHER--
--LIKE NOTHIN' HAPPENED!
UGHH.
SOMETIMES I CAN'T *STAND* THE HUMAN RACE.
MAYBE THAT'S WHY NATURE CREATED *MUTANTS!*
HAHAHA
FIN

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